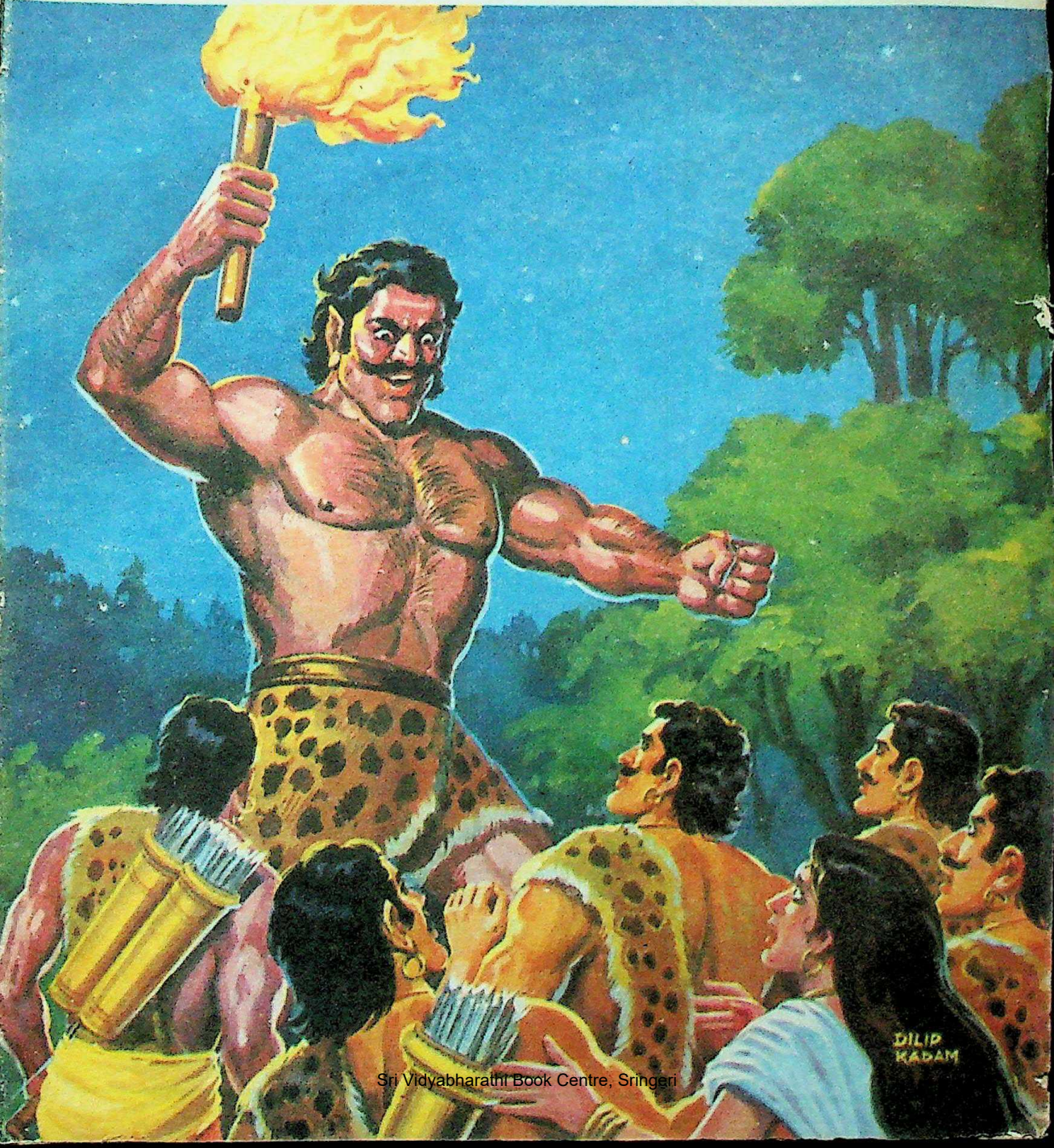




No. 365 Rs. 4/-

The Pandavas in the Forest



DILIP
KADAM

Amar Chitra Katha

No.365 September 15, 1986

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Published by:

H.G. MIRCHANDANI

for India Book House Pvt. Ltd.

Mahalaxmi Chambers

22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,

Bombay 400 026.

and printed by him

at IBH Printers, Marol Naka,

Mathuradas Vissanji Road,

Andheri (East),

Bombay 400 059.

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Bombay 400 026.

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Distributors in U.S.A.

Admans Enterprises Inc.

1123 Broadway Suite 1010

New York N.Y. 10010

Sole Authorised Agency for
Subscriptions:

Partha Books Division,

Navprabhat Chambers,

Ranade Road, Dadar,

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MAHABHARATA

Veda Vyasa's Epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple Vaishampayana at the behest of the ageless seer Vyasa himself.

The recital took place in the august presence of King Janamejaya—great-grandson of Vyasa—and the many learned sages who had assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a 12-year-long snake sacrifice).

The eighteenth session of our presentation of Vaishampayana's recital of Vyasa's Mahabharata narrated how, bound by his Dharma, Yudhishtira consented to gamble, how he was defeated by Shakuni who used foul means at the game of dice and how Duhshasana tried to disrobe Draupadi in the assembly which enraged Bheema to take terrible vows of destroying the Kuru princes in war. Our rendition of this session concluded with the banishment of the Pandavas to the forest for thirteen years.

Revision in Price

Because of the rising cost of paper and printing and the increasing wage bill, we are left with no alternative except to revise the price of Amar Chitra Katha to Rs. 5.00 with effect from the issue No. 366 dated October, 1, 1986. We are sure readers will bear with us. However, with the issue dated October 1, 1986, we will once again use better paper for the cover.

Editor

OUR FORTHCOMING TITLES :

October 1, 1986

PATALI—PUTRA

Sr Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

October 15, 1986

Mahabharata—20

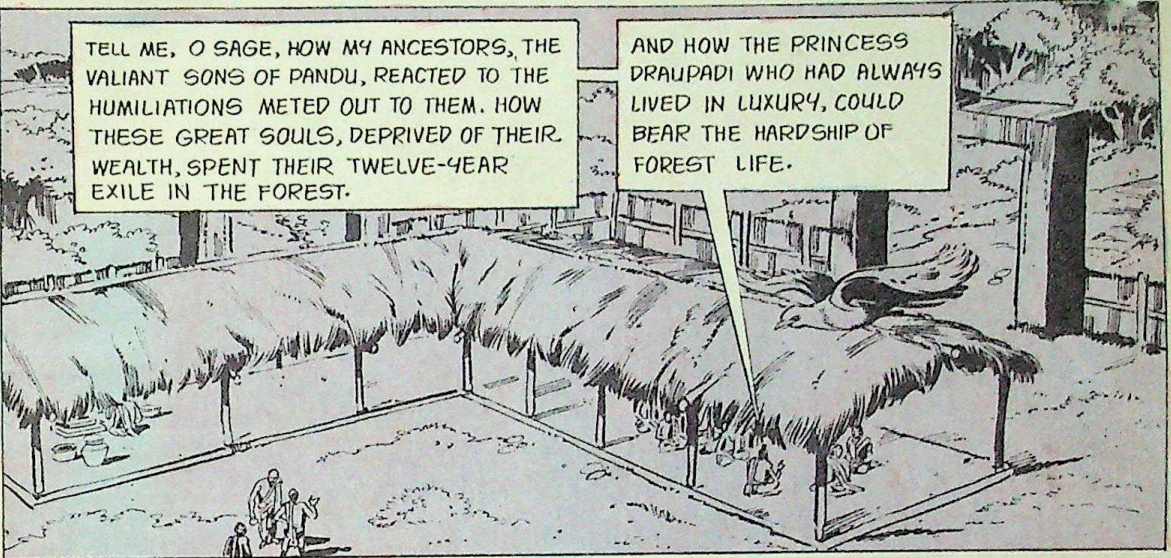
ARJUNA'S QUEST
FOR WEAPONS

Mahabharata - 19

THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST

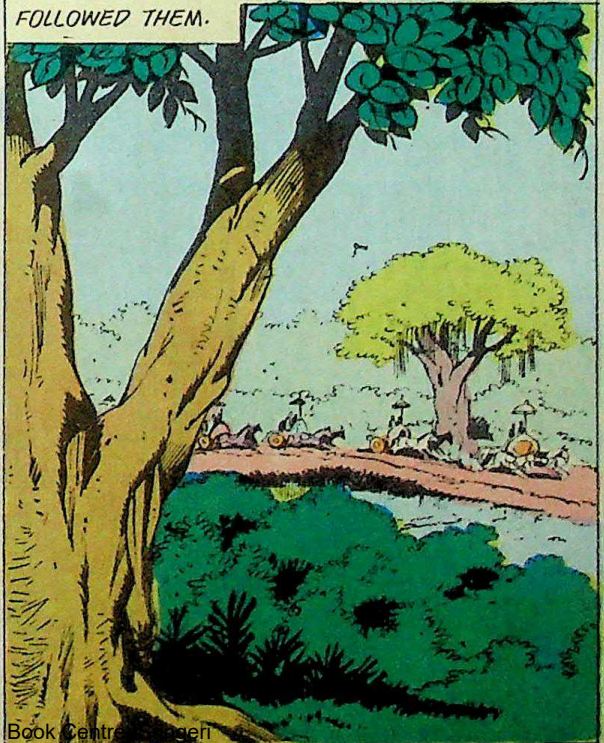
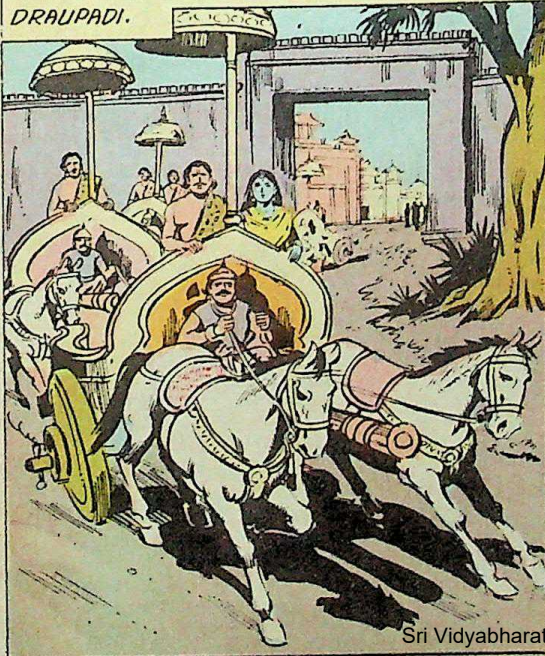
TELL ME, O SAGE, HOW MY ANCESTORS, THE VALIANT SONS OF PANDU, REACTED TO THE HUMILIATIONS METED OUT TO THEM. HOW THESE GREAT SOULS, DEPRIVED OF THEIR WEALTH, SPENT THEIR TWELVE-YEAR EXILE IN THE FOREST.

AND HOW THE PRINCESS DRAUPADI WHO HAD ALWAYS LIVED IN LUXURY, COULD BEAR THE HARDSHIP OF FOREST LIFE.

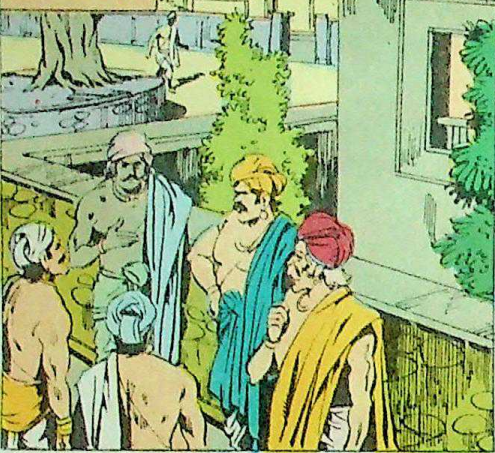


"HAVING BEEN DEFEATED BY THE WICKED SONS OF DHRTARASHTRA IN THE DECEITFUL GAME OF DICE, THE PANDAVAS, WITH THEIR ANGER EVOKED, PICKED UP THEIR WEAPONS AND CAME OUT OF HASTINAPURA, ACCOMPANIED BY DRAUPADI.

"THEY PROCEEDED NORTHWARDS AND FOURTEEN OF THEIR ATTENDANTS, ALONG WITH THEIR WIVES FOLLOWED THEM.



"ON HEARING THE FATE OF THE PANDAVAS, THE CITIZENS OF HASTINAPURA CAME OUT OF THEIR HOMES. IN THEIR SORROW AND ANGER, THEY DID NOT SPARE IN THEIR CRITICISM EVEN BHEESHMA, VIDURA, DRONA AND KRIPA."

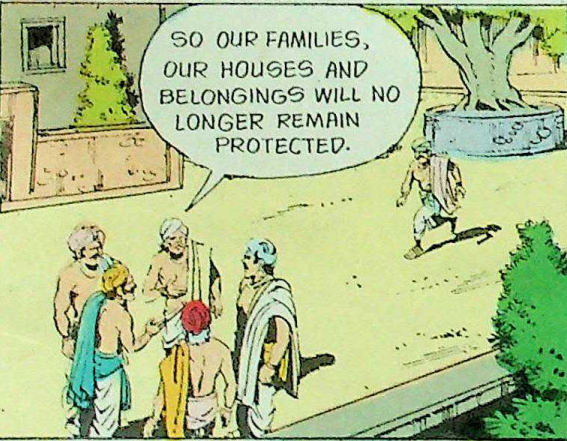


"AND THEY SAID TO ONE ANOTHER :

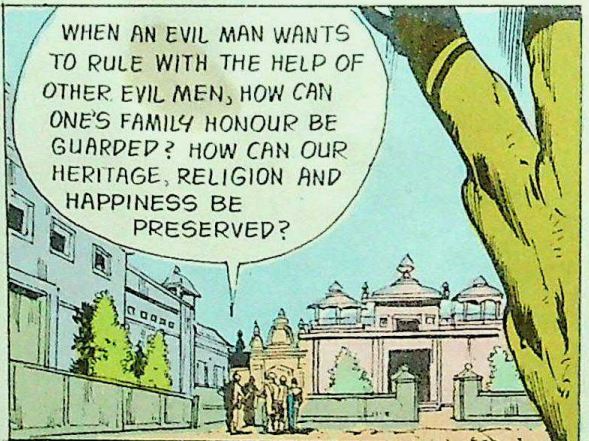
THE SINNER DURYODHANA, AIDED BY SHAKUNI AND WITH THE APPROVAL OF KARNA AND DUHSHASANA, WANTS TO RULE OVER US.



SO OUR FAMILIES, OUR HOUSES AND BELONGINGS WILL NO LONGER REMAIN PROTECTED.



WHEN AN EVIL MAN WANTS TO RULE WITH THE HELP OF OTHER EVIL MEN, HOW CAN ONE'S FAMILY HONOUR BE GUARDED? HOW CAN OUR HERITAGE, RELIGION AND HAPPINESS BE PRESERVED?



IT IS CERTAIN THAT UNDER DURYODHANA'S RULE, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL COME TO A SORRY END.

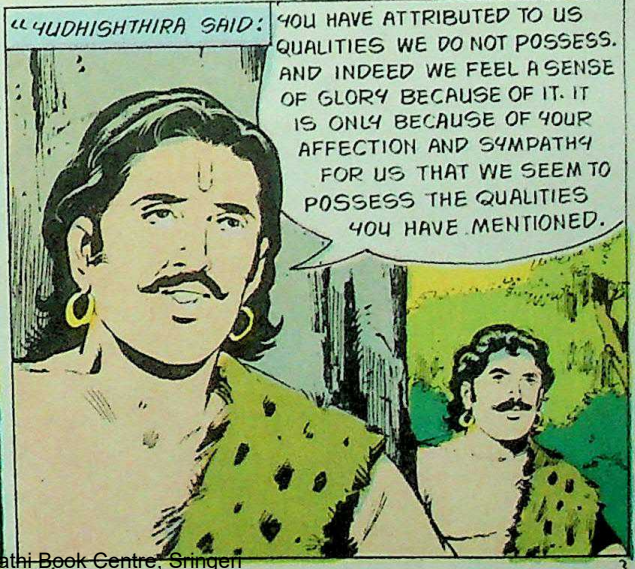
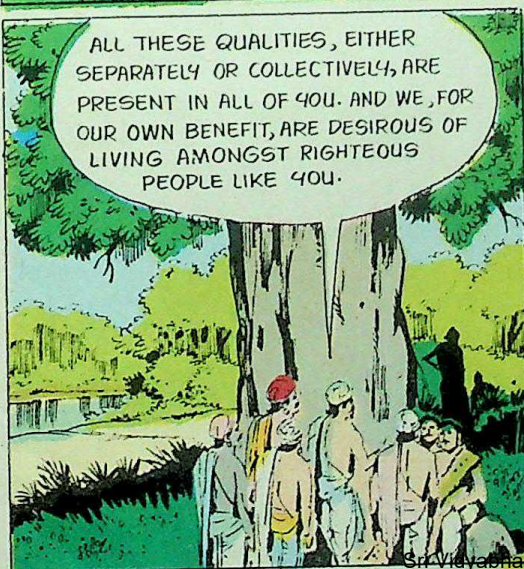
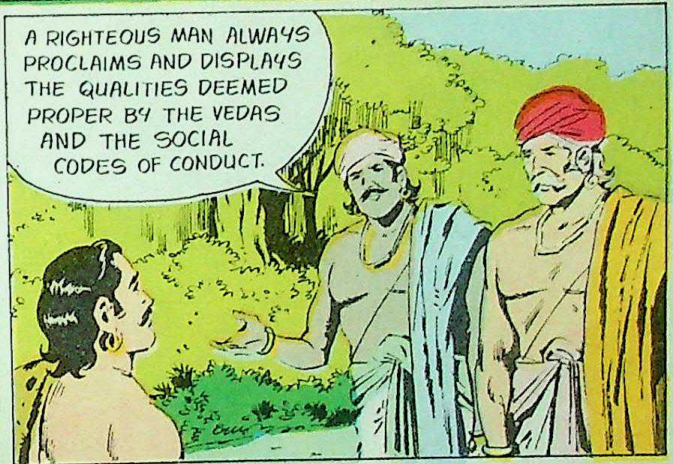
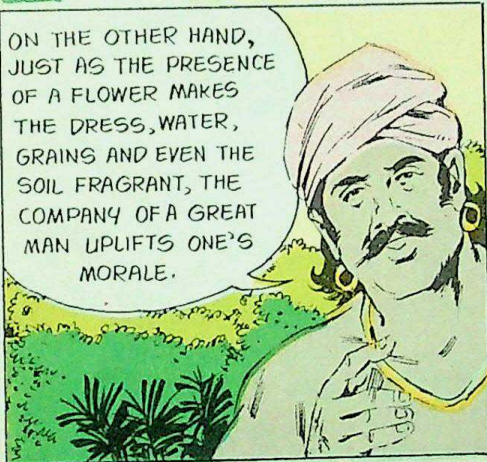
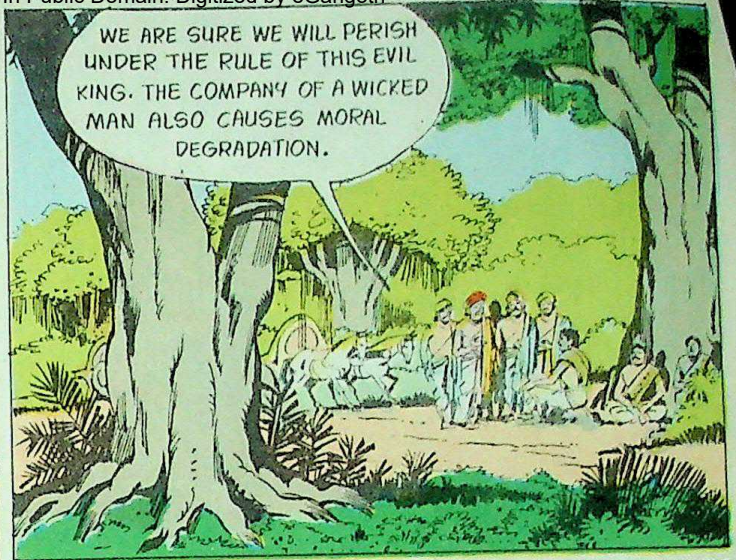
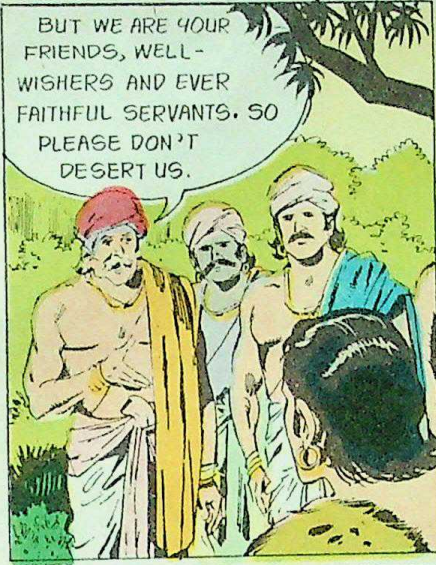
SO LET US ACCOMPANY THE KIND-HEARTED, RIGHTEOUS AND VALOROUS PANDAVAS WHEREVER THEY GO.

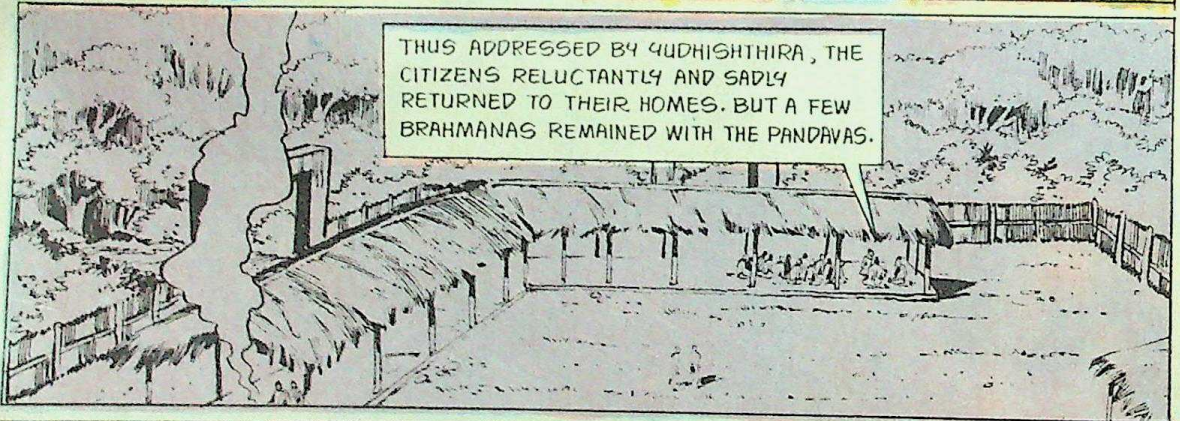
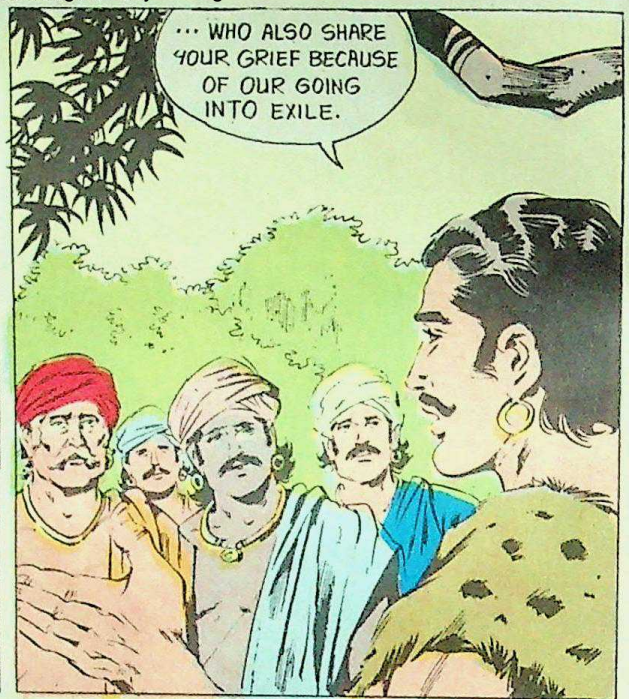


"SAYING THIS, THE CITIZENS WENT UP TO THE PANDAVAS AND SAID :

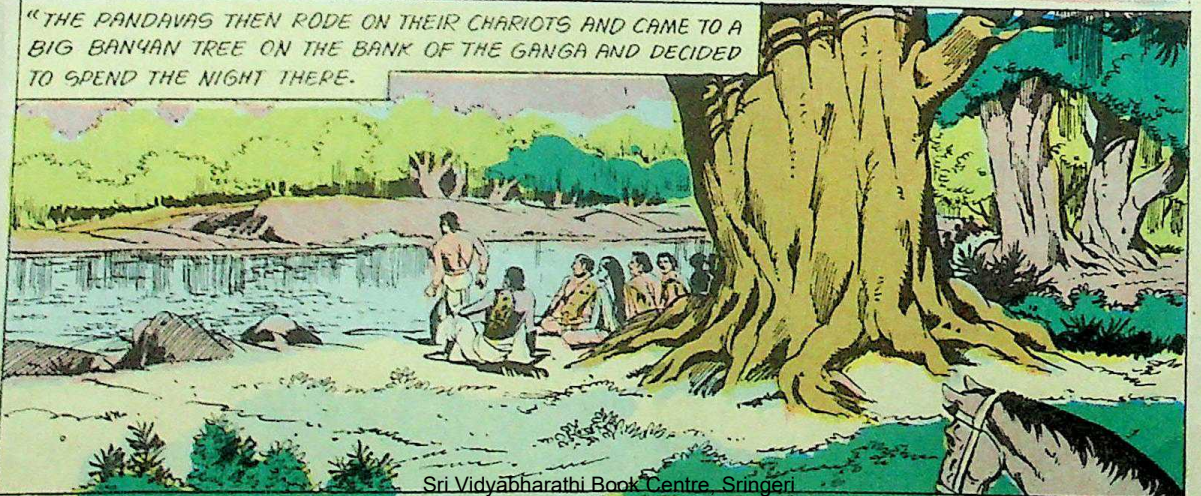
WE ARE DISTRESSED THAT YOU ARE BEING BANISHED FROM YOUR KINGDOM THROUGH THE TREACHERY OF YOUR CRUEL ENEMIES.



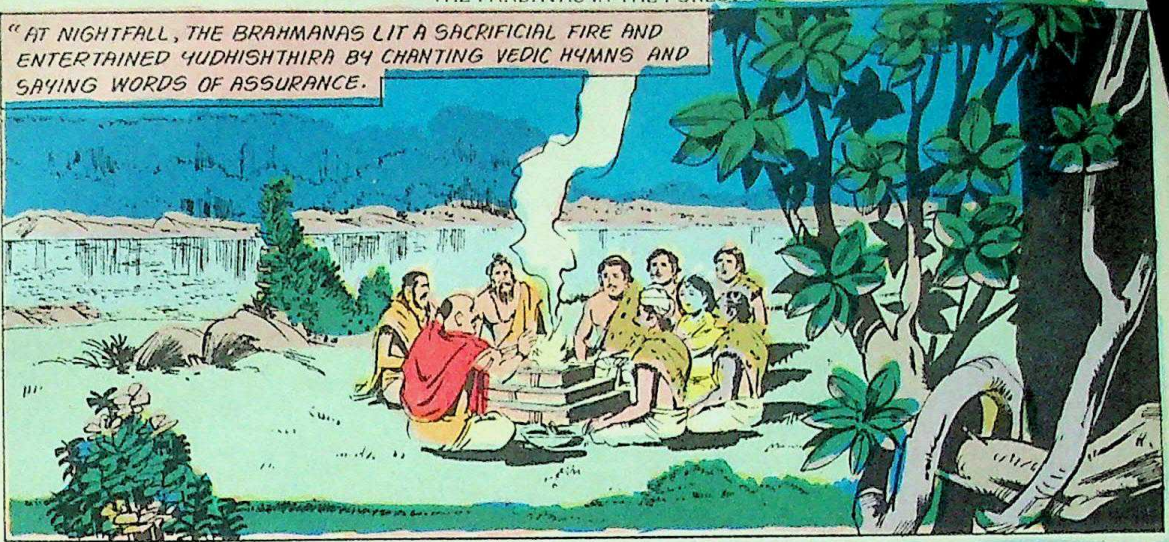




"THE PANDAVAS THEN RODE ON THEIR CHARIOTS AND CAME TO A BIG BANYAN TREE ON THE BANK OF THE GANGA AND DECIDED TO SPEND THE NIGHT THERE.

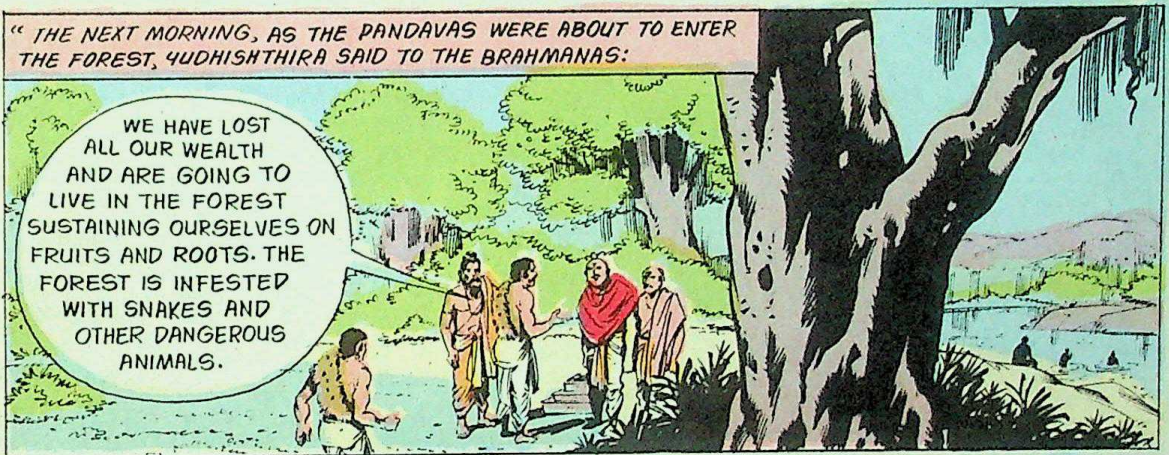


"AT NIGHTFALL, THE BRAHMANAS LIT A SACRIFICIAL FIRE AND ENTERTAINED YUDHISHTHIRA BY CHANTING VEDIC HYMNS AND SAYING WORDS OF ASSURANCE."

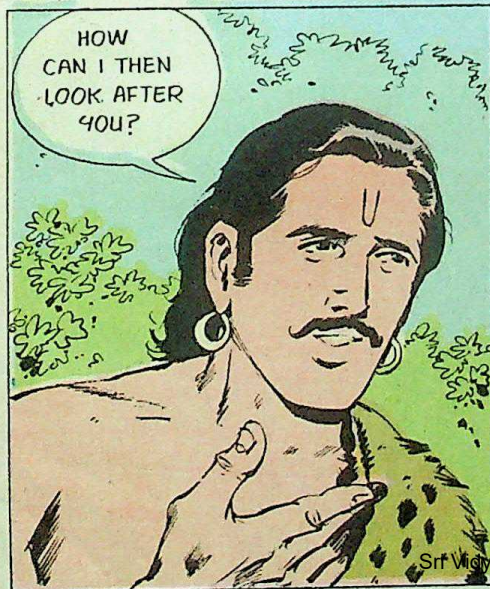


"THE NEXT MORNING, AS THE PANDAVAS WERE ABOUT TO ENTER THE FOREST, YUDHISHTHIRA SAID TO THE BRAHMANAS:

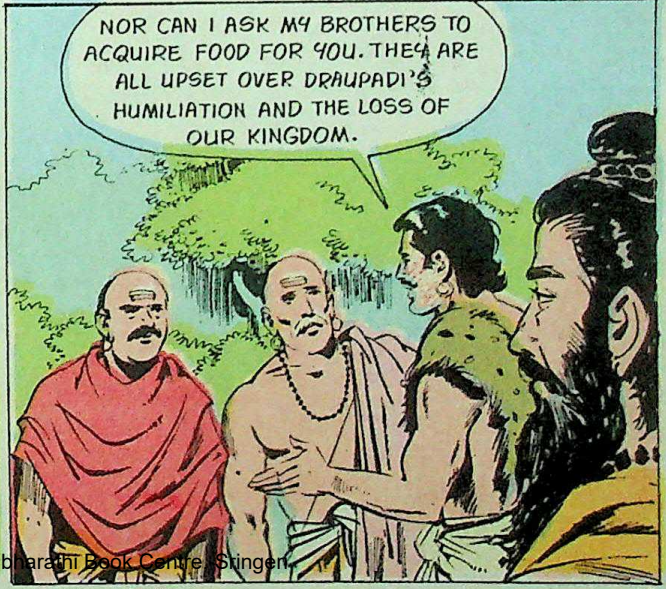
WE HAVE LOST ALL OUR WEALTH AND ARE GOING TO LIVE IN THE FOREST SUSTAINING OURSELVES ON FRUITS AND ROOTS. THE FOREST IS INFESTED WITH SNAKES AND OTHER DANGEROUS ANIMALS.



HOW CAN I THEN LOOK AFTER YOU?

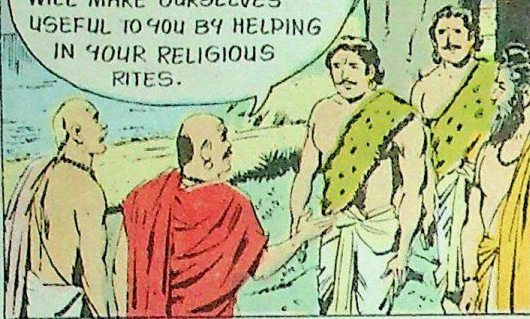


NOR CAN I ASK MY BROTHERS TO ACQUIRE FOOD FOR YOU. THEY ARE ALL UPSET OVER DRAUPADI'S HUMILIATION AND THE LOSS OF OUR KINGDOM.

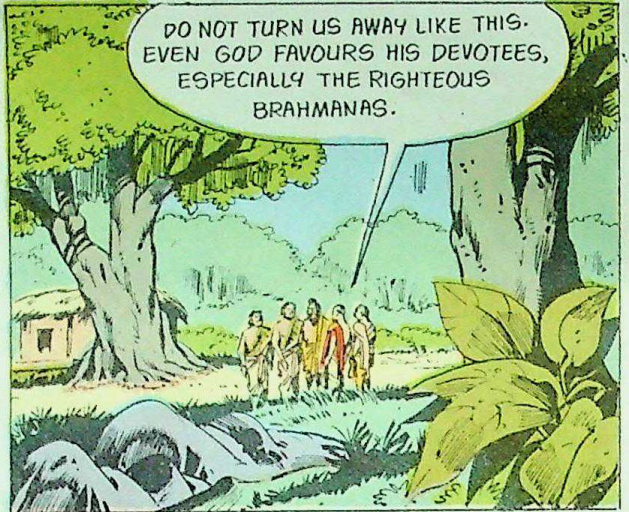


"THE BRAHMANAS REPLIED:

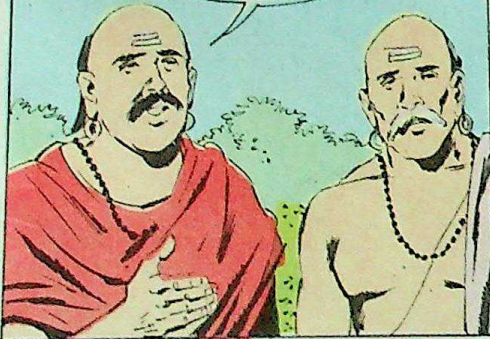
WE WILL WILLINGLY
ACCEPT YOUR WAY OF LIFE
WHATEVER THE HARDSHIP.
WE ARE DEVOTED TO YOU AND
WILL MAKE OURSELVES
USEFUL TO YOU BY HELPING
IN YOUR RELIGIOUS
RITES.



DO NOT TURN US AWAY LIKE THIS.
EVEN GOD FAVOURS HIS DEVOTEES,
ESPECIALLY THE RIGHTEOUS
BRAHMANAS.

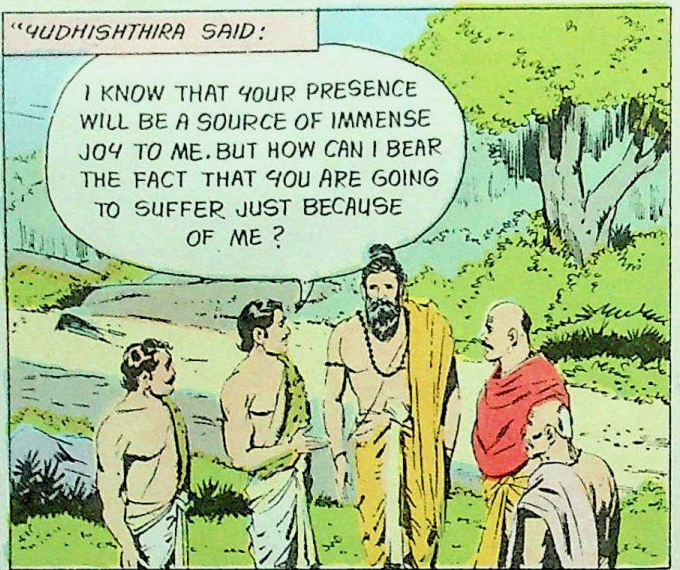


WE WILL OBTAIN OUR
FOOD OURSELVES, LOOK
AFTER YOUR WELL-BEING
WITH OUR PRAYERS AND
ENTERTAIN YOU WITH
INTERESTING TALES.



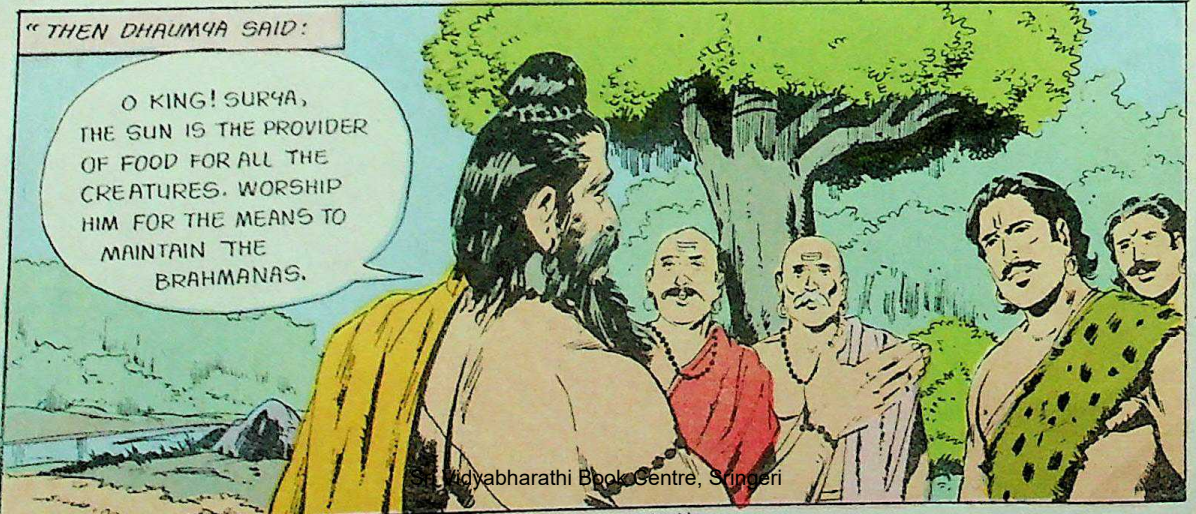
"GUDHISHTHIRA SAID:

I KNOW THAT YOUR PRESENCE
WILL BE A SOURCE OF IMMENSE
JOY TO ME. BUT HOW CAN I BEAR
THE FACT THAT YOU ARE GOING
TO SUFFER JUST BECAUSE
OF ME?



"THEN DHAUMYA SAID:

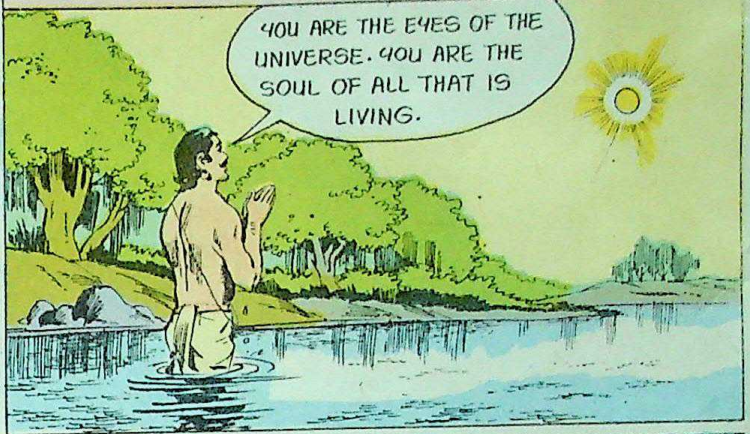
O KING! SURYA,
THE SUN IS THE PROVIDER
OF FOOD FOR ALL THE
CREATURES. WORSHIP
HIM FOR THE MEANS TO
MAINTAIN THE
BRAHMANAS.



THUS ADVISED BY DHAUMYA,
O MONARCH, YUDHISHTHIRA
STARTED HIS AUSTERITIES
TO PROPITIATE SURYA.

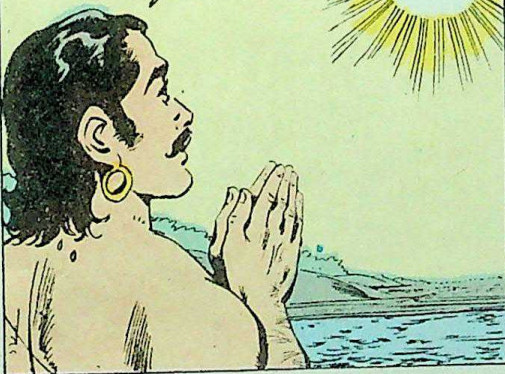


"STANDING IN THE WATERS OF GANGA, YUDHISHTHIRA FACED
THE SUN, CONSUMED NOTHING BUT AIR AND OFFERED
PRAYERS WITH FLOWERS AND GRAINS.

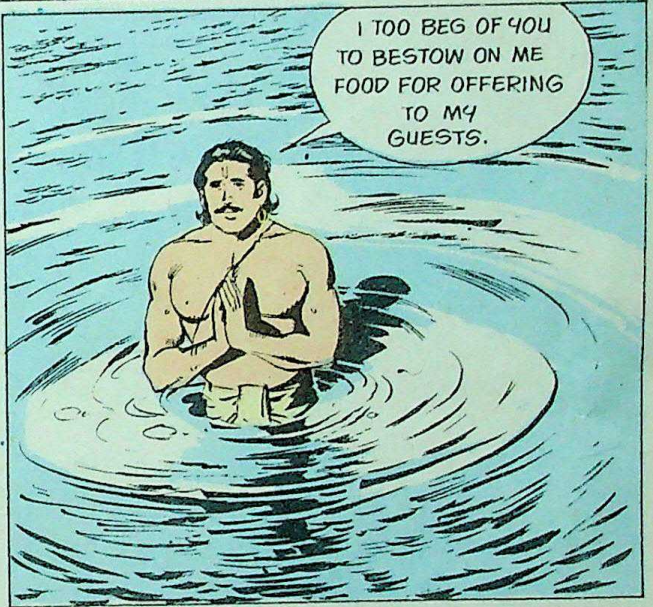


YOU ARE THE EYES OF THE
UNIVERSE. YOU ARE THE
SOUL OF ALL THAT IS
LIVING.

ALL THE
CELESTIALS FOLLOW
YOUR RADIANT
CHARIOT IN PURSUIT
OF YOUR
BLESSINGS.



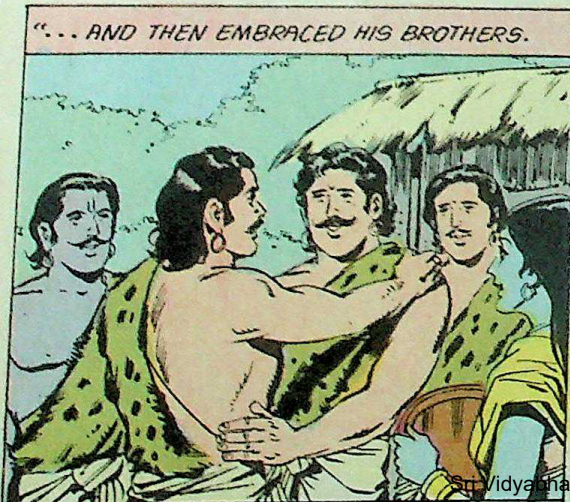
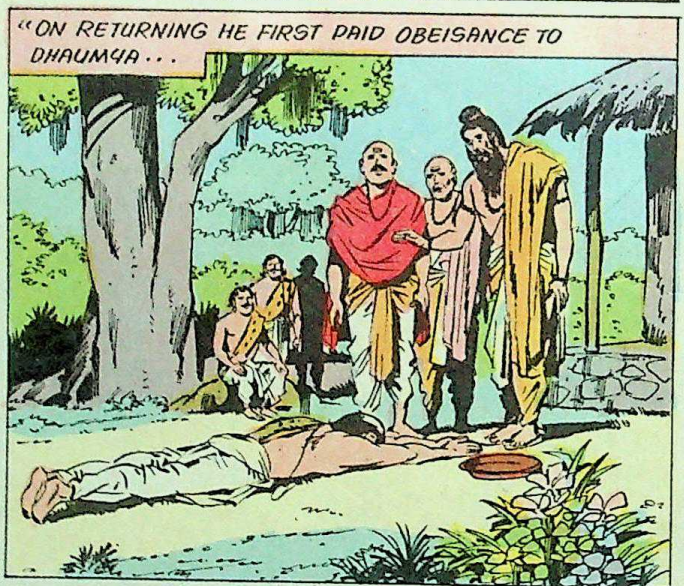
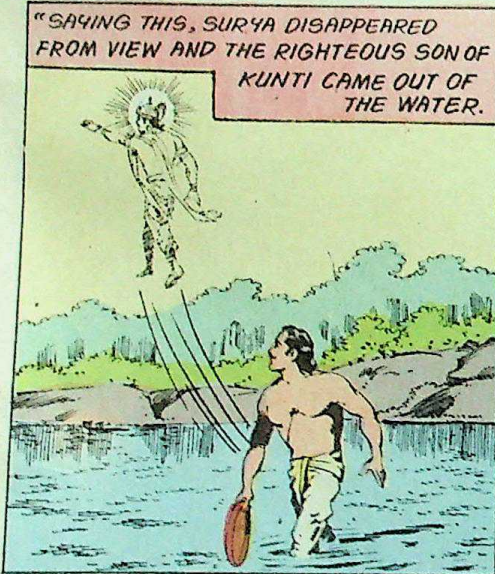
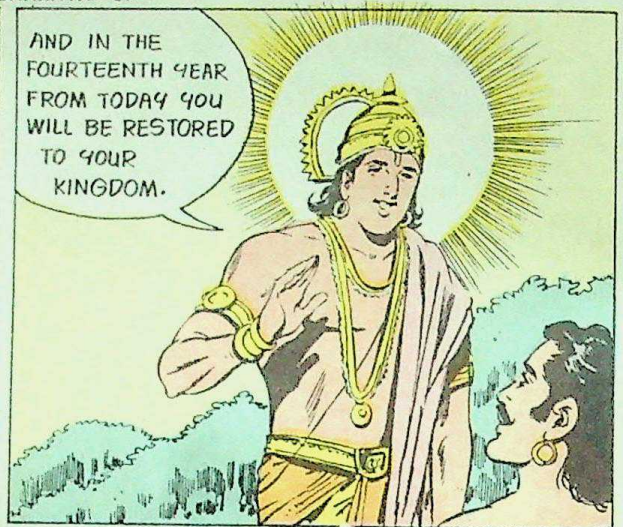
I TOO BEG OF YOU
TO BESTOW ON ME
FOOD FOR OFFERING
TO MY
GUESTS.



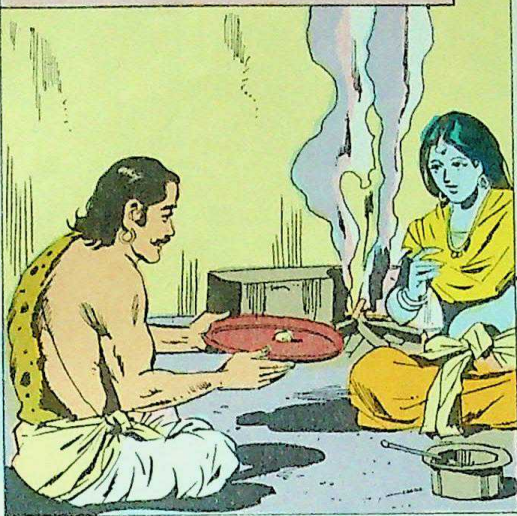
"PLEASED BY HIS PRAYERS, SURYA APPEARED
BEFORE YUDHISHTHIRA AND SAID:

YOUR DESIRE
SHALL BE FULFILLED. I
SHALL PROVIDE YOU
WITH FOOD DURING ALL
THESE TWELVE
YEARS.

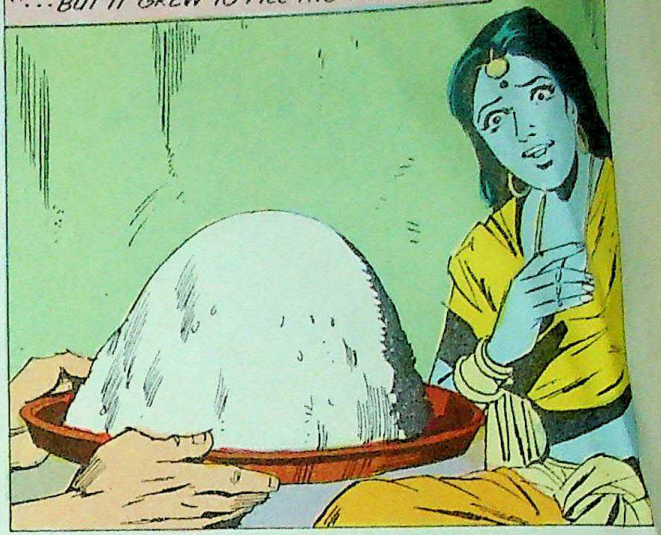




"THE FOOD COOKED WAS MEAGRE..."



"...BUT IT GREW TO FILL THE PLATE."



"AND YUDHISHTHIRA FIRST SERVED THE FOOD TO THE BRAHMANAS..."



"...THEN TO HIS BROTHERS ..."

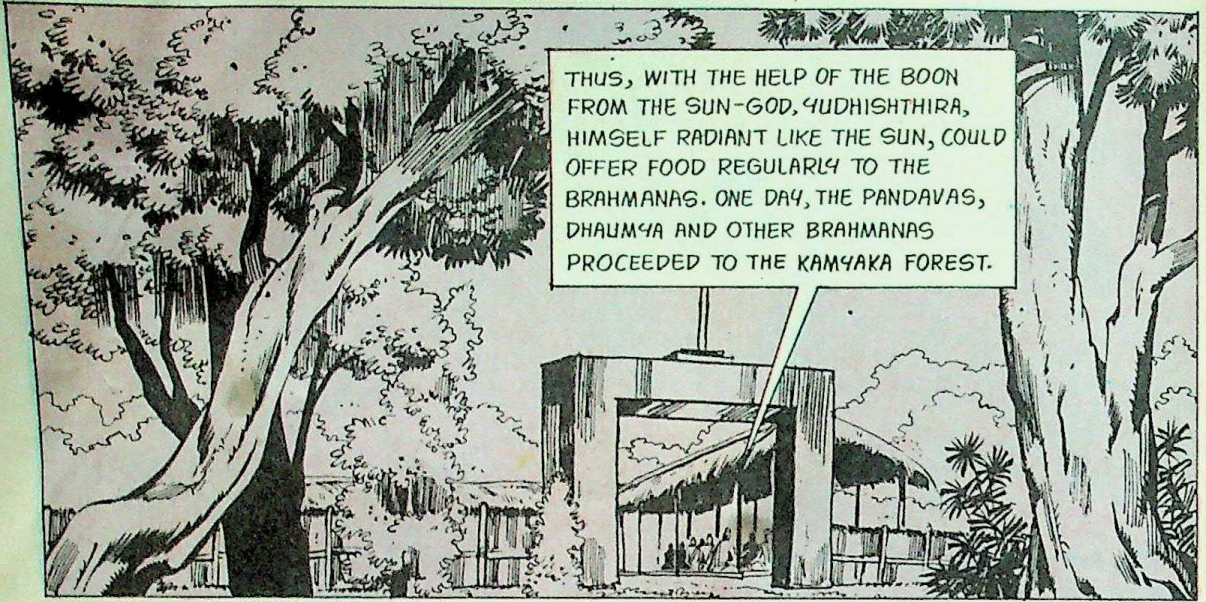


"...AND THEN ATE THE LEFT-OVERS HIMSELF."



"AND ONLY WHEN DRAUPADI FINALLY FINISHED HER MEAL DID THE PLATE BECOME EMPTY."

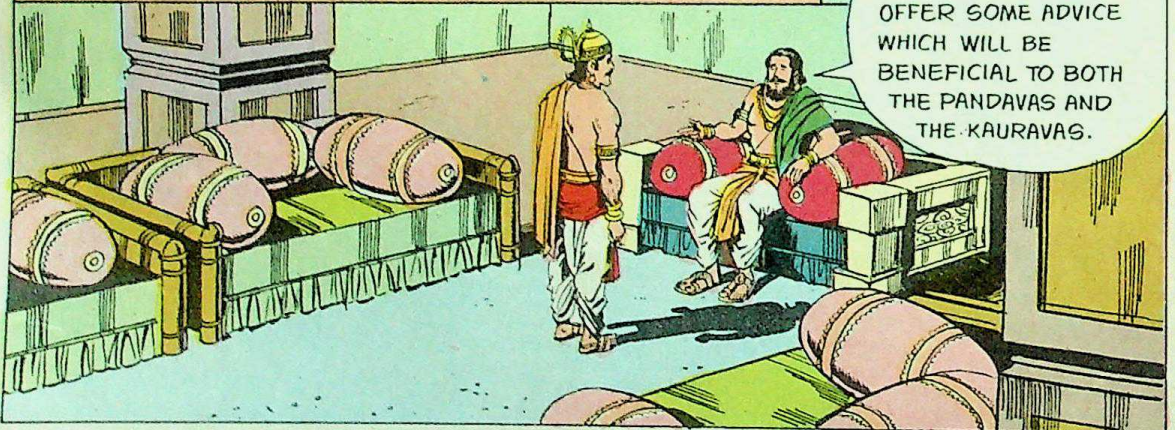




THUS, WITH THE HELP OF THE BOON FROM THE SUN-GOD, YUDHISHTHIRA, HIMSELF RADIANT LIKE THE SUN, COULD OFFER FOOD REGULARLY TO THE BRAHMANAS. ONE DAY, THE PANDAVAS, DHARMYA AND OTHER BRAHMANAS PROCEEDED TO THE KAMYAKA FOREST.

"AS THE PANDAVAS WENT TO THE FOREST, DHRITARASHTRA FELT SAD AND SENT FOR THE EVER-INTELLIGENT VIDURA. HE SAID TO HIM:

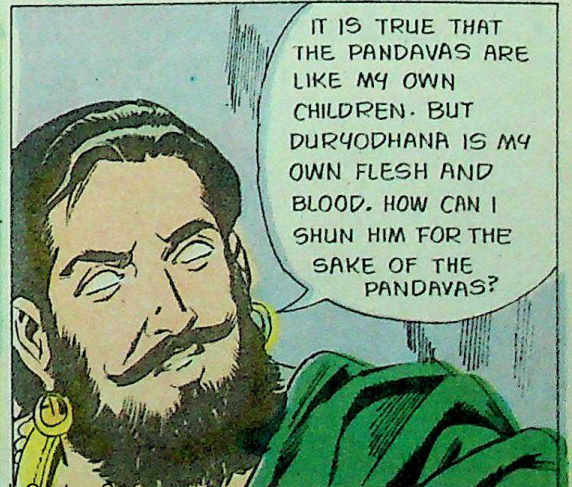
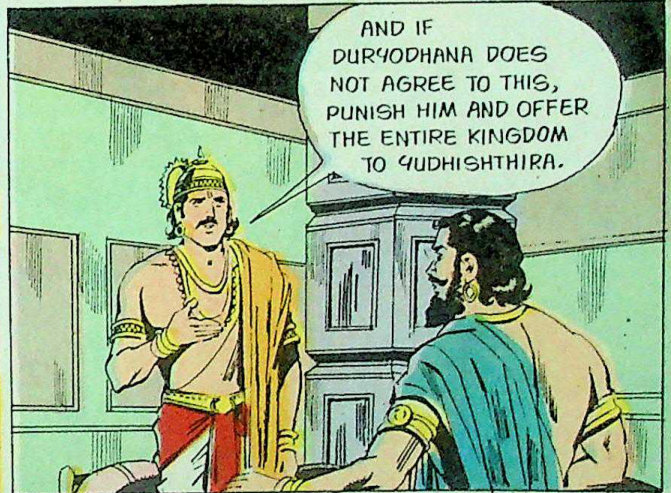
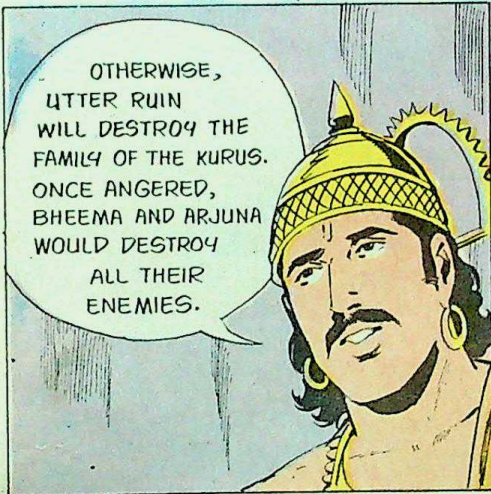
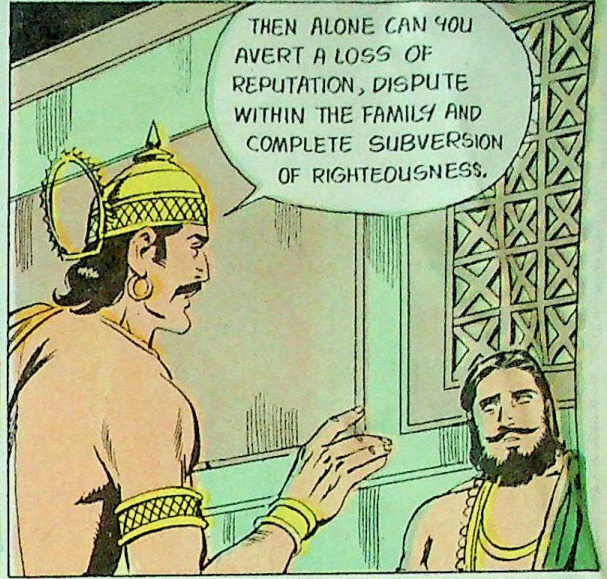
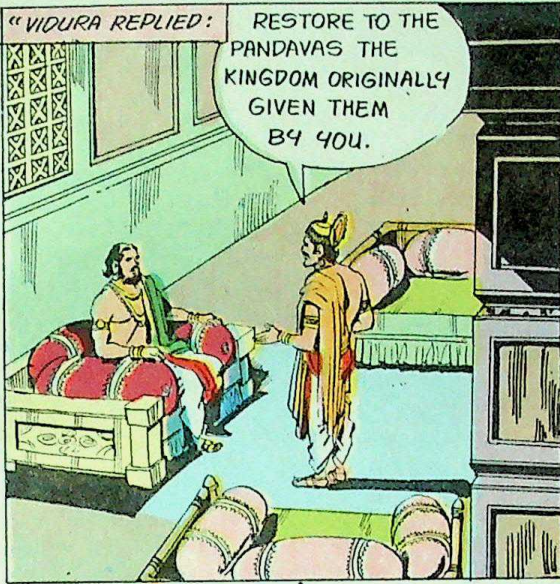
TO YOU ALL THE KURUS ARE EQUAL. DO OFFER SOME ADVICE WHICH WILL BE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH THE PANDAVAS AND THE KAURAVAS.

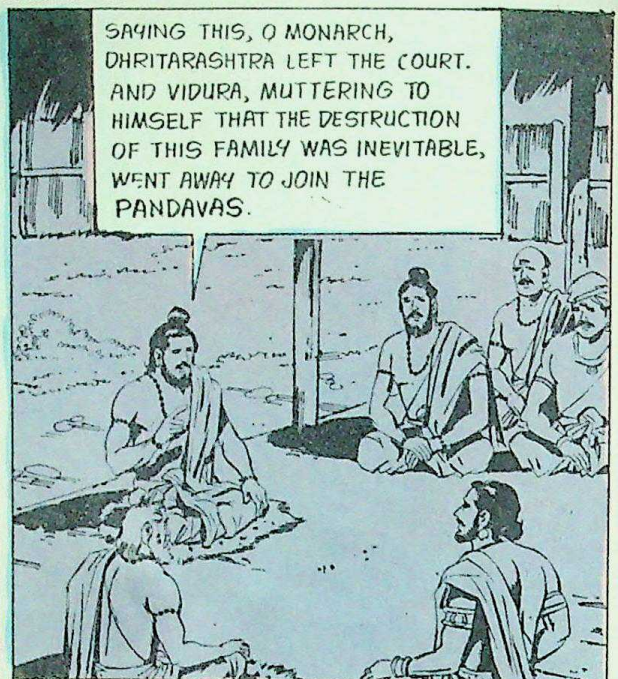
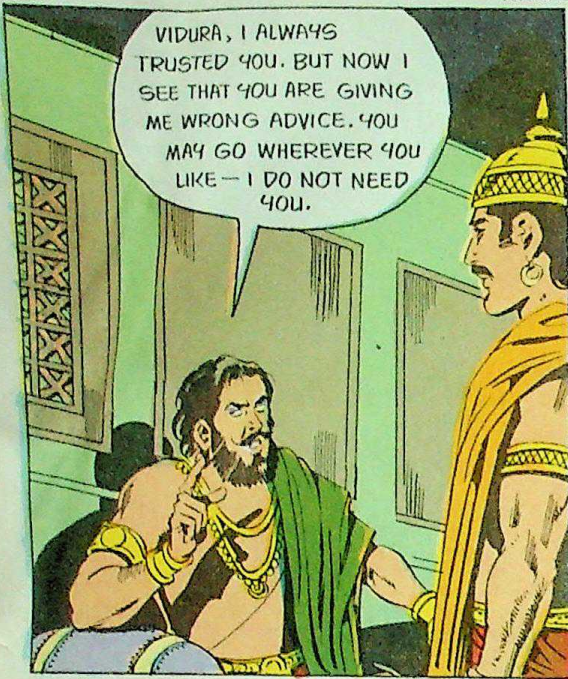


TELL ME HOW THE SUBJECTS CAN BE DRAWN TO OUR SIDE...

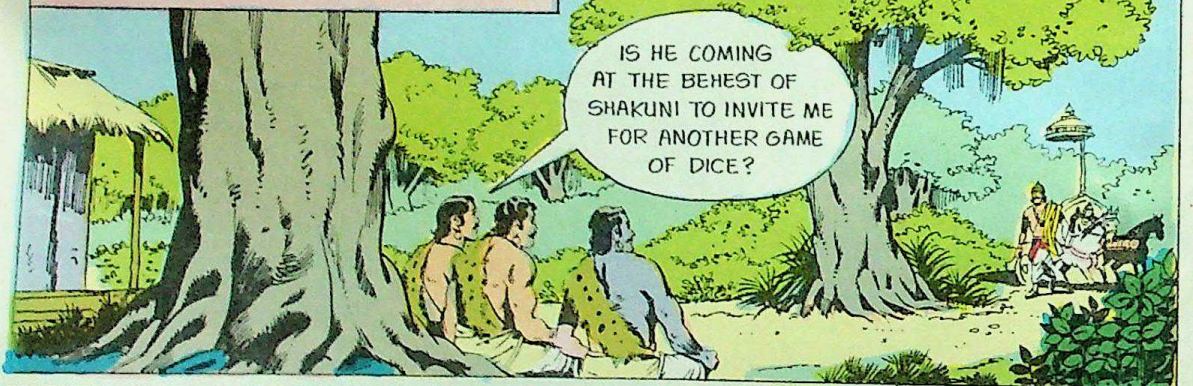
... AND HOW TO PREVENT THE PANDAVAS FROM OVERTHROWING US.







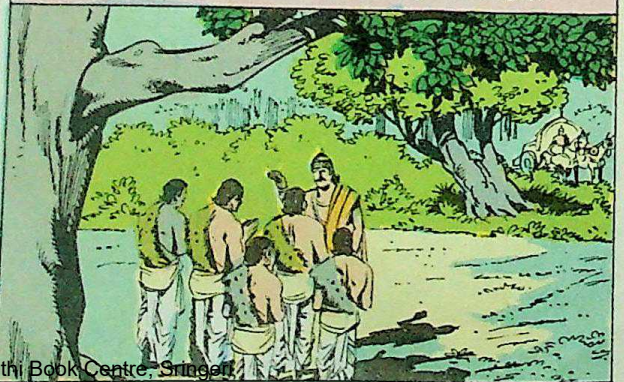
"IN THE FOREST, YUDHISHTHIRA WAS RESTING WITH DRAUPADI, HIS BROTHERS, AND THE BRAHMANAS, WHEN HE SAW VIDURA COMING TOWARDS THEM. HE THEN SAID TO BHEEMA:



DOES SHAKUNI WANT TO WIN OVER OUR WEAPONS ALSO? IF THAT HAPPENS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET BACK OUR KINGDOM.

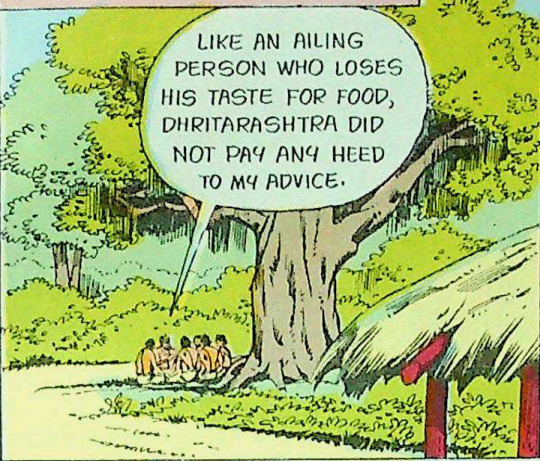


"THE PANDAVAS THEN STOOD UP AND GREETED VIDURA AND ASKED HIM ABOUT HIS MISSION.



"VIDURA TOLD THEM ABOUT HIS CONVERSATION
WITH DHRITARASHTRA AND SAID:

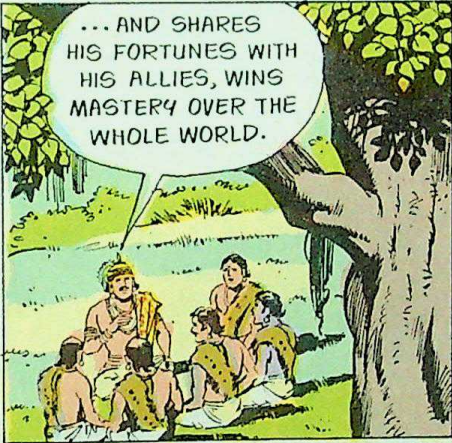
LIKE AN AILING
PERSON WHO LOSES
HIS TASTE FOR FOOD,
DHRTARASHTRA DID
NOT PAY ANY HEED
TO MY ADVICE.



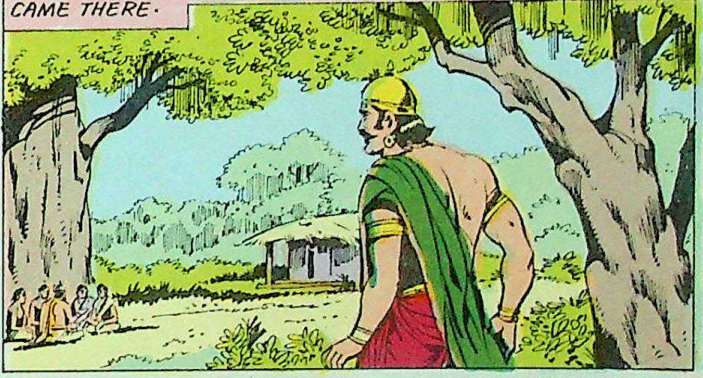
NOW LISTEN TO MY
ADVICE: ONE WHO FOLLOWS
THE PATH OF FORGIVENESS
IN SPITE OF
GREAT SUFFERING...



... AND SHARES
HIS FORTUNES WITH
HIS ALLIES, WINS
MASTERY OVER THE
WHOLE WORLD.

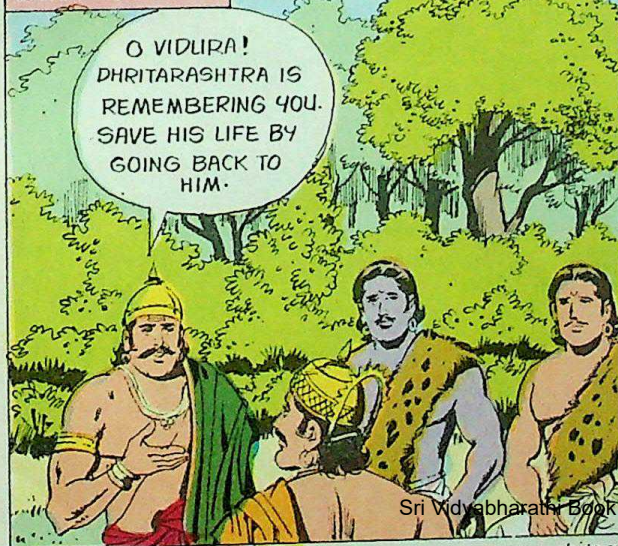


"WHILE VIDURA WAS ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH THE
PANDAVAS, SANJAYA, THE MESSENGER OF DHRTARASHTRA,
CAME THERE.

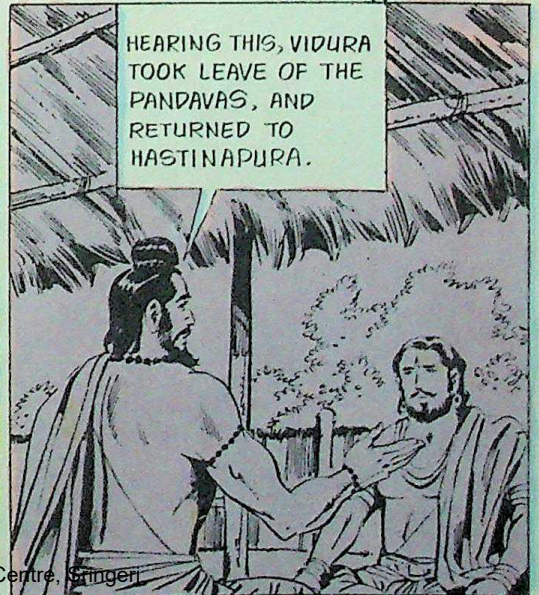


"AFTER PAYING OBEISANCE TO THEM AND RESTING A
WHILE HE SAID:

O VIDURA!
DHRTARASHTRA IS
REMEMBERING YOU.
SAVE HIS LIFE BY
GOING BACK TO
HIM.

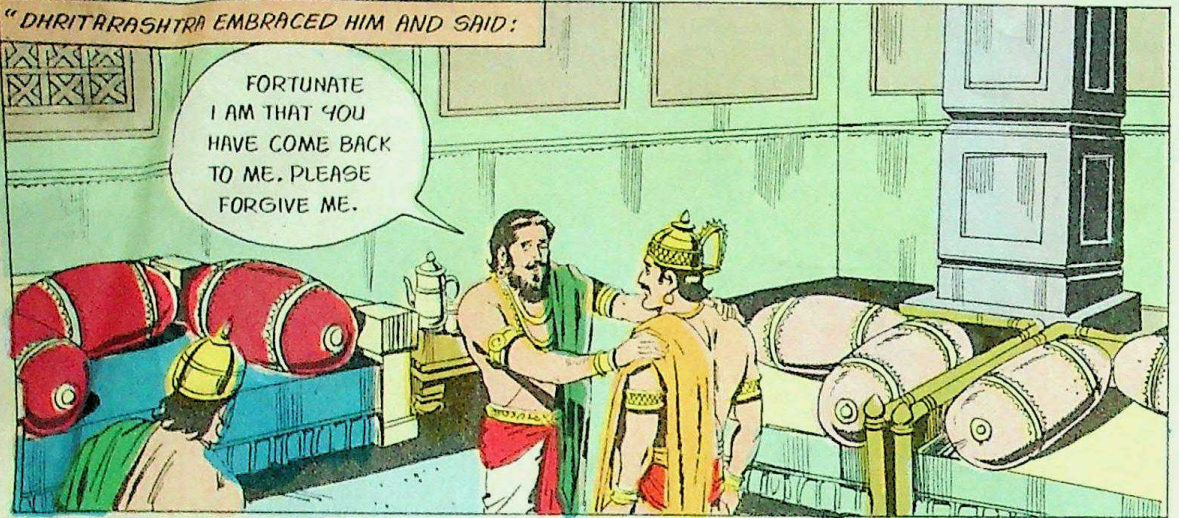


HEARING THIS, VIDURA
TOOK LEAVE OF THE
PANDAVAS, AND
RETURNED TO
HASTINAPURA.



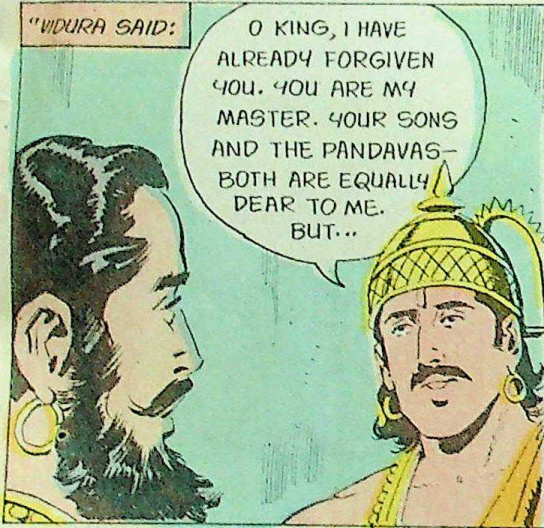
"DHRITARASHTRA EMBRACED HIM AND SAID:

FORTUNATE
I AM THAT YOU
HAVE COME BACK
TO ME. PLEASE
FORGIVE ME.

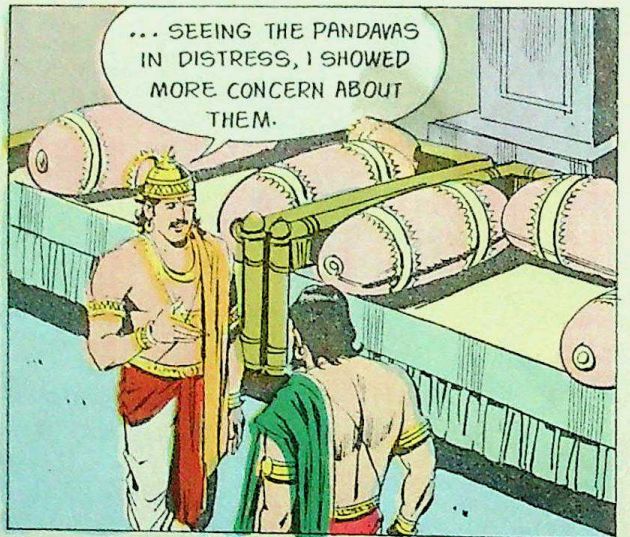


"VIDURA SAID:

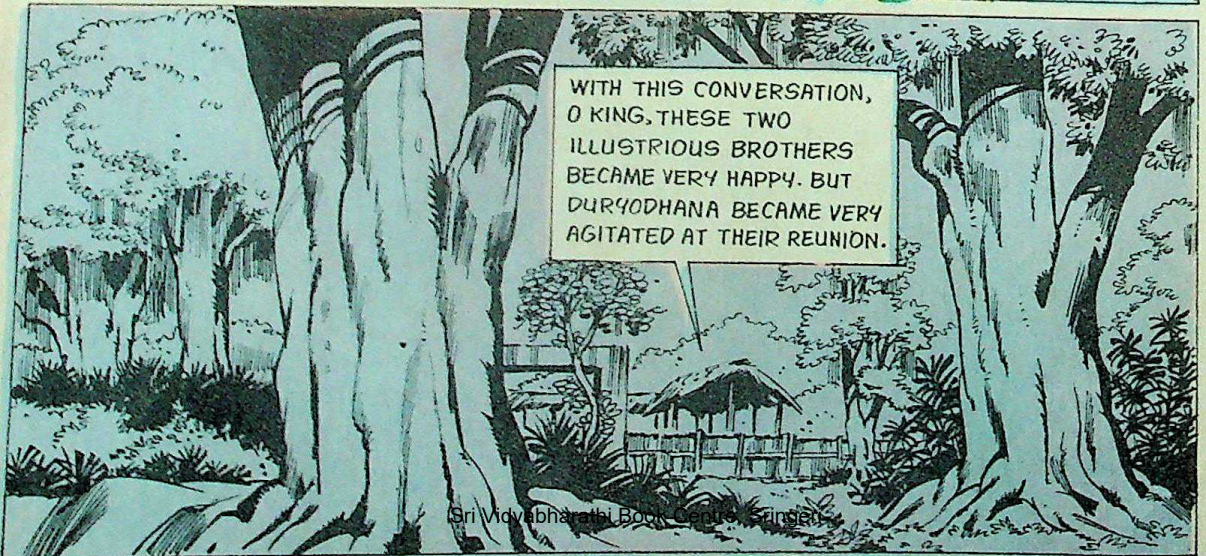
O KING, I HAVE
ALREADY FORGIVEN
YOU. YOU ARE MY
MASTER. YOUR SONS
AND THE PANDAVAS—
BOTH ARE EQUALLY
DEAR TO ME.
BUT...



... SEEING THE PANDAVAS
IN DISTRESS, I SHOWED
MORE CONCERN ABOUT
THEM.

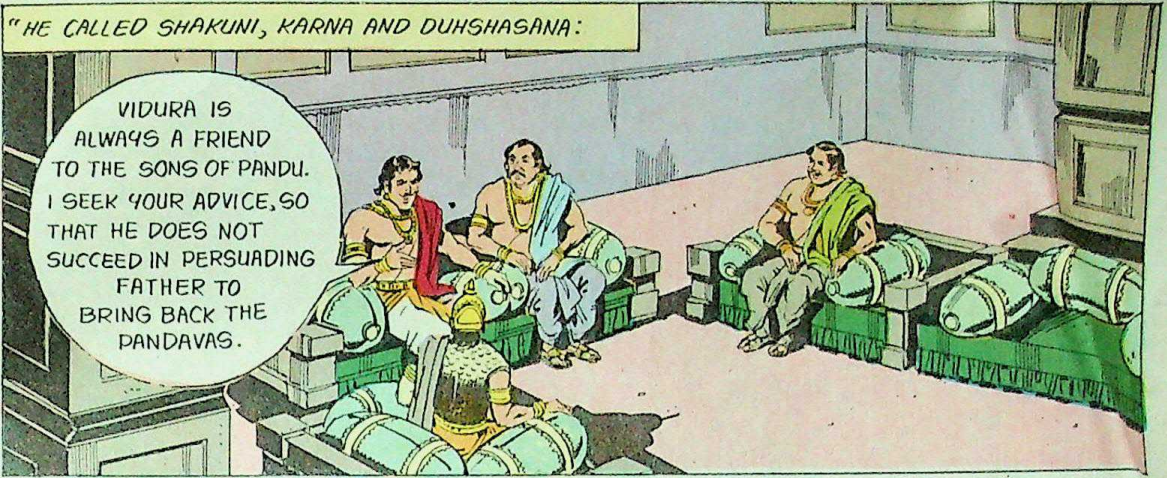


WITH THIS CONVERSATION,
O KING, THESE TWO
ILLUSTRIOUS BROTHERS
BECAME VERY HAPPY. BUT
DURYODHANA BECAME VERY
AGITATED AT THEIR REUNION.

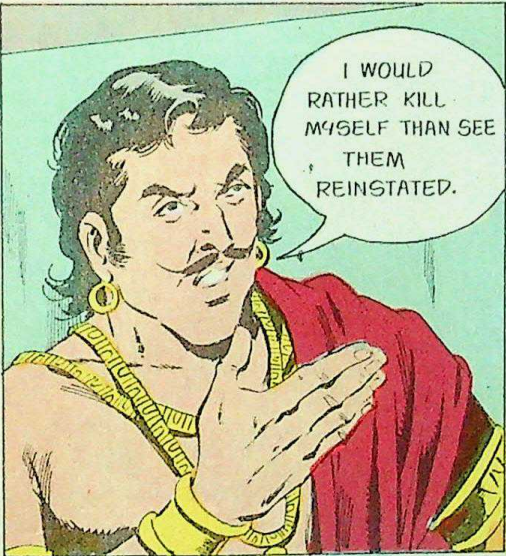


"HE CALLED SHAKUNI, KARNA AND DUHSHASANA:

VIDURA IS
ALWAYS A FRIEND
TO THE SONS OF PANDU.
I SEEK YOUR ADVICE, SO
THAT HE DOES NOT
SUCCEED IN PERSUADING
FATHER TO
BRING BACK THE
PANDAVAS.

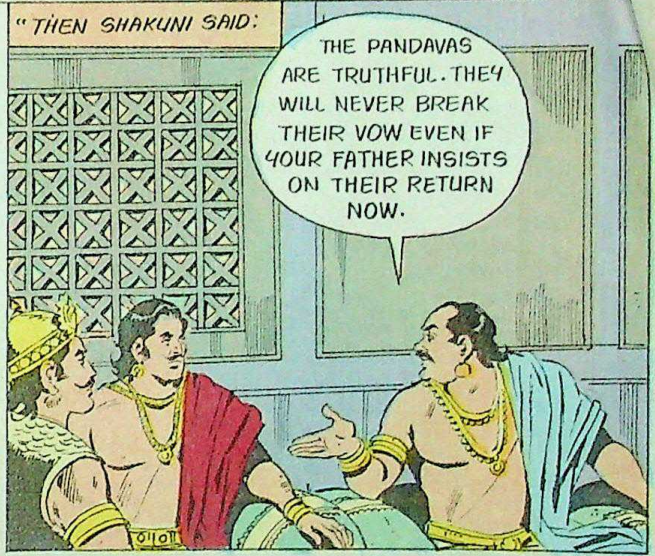


I WOULD
RATHER KILL
MYSELF THAN SEE
THEM
REINSTATED.

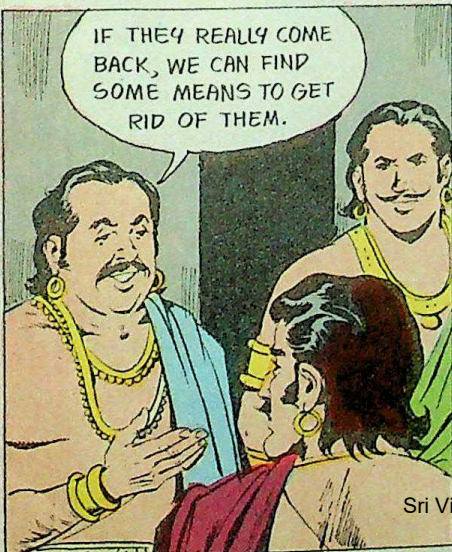


"THEN SHAKUNI SAID:

THE PANDAVAS
ARE TRUTHFUL. THEY
WILL NEVER BREAK
THEIR VOW EVEN IF
YOUR FATHER INSISTS
ON THEIR RETURN
NOW.

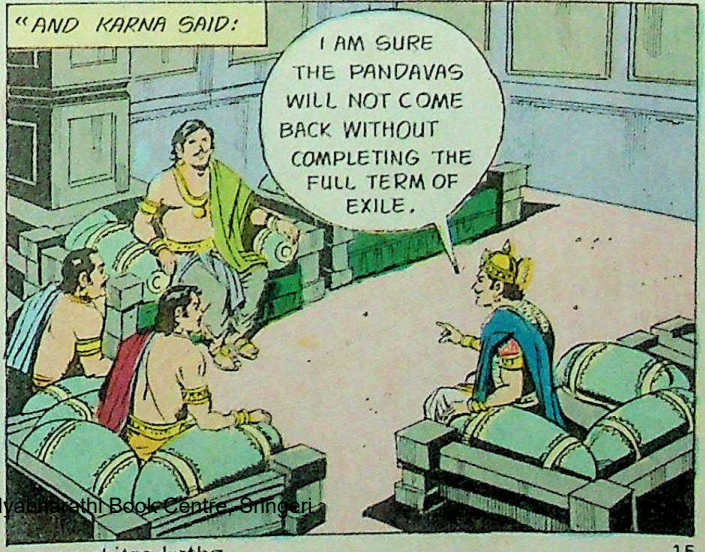


IF THEY REALLY COME
BACK, WE CAN FIND
SOME MEANS TO GET
RID OF THEM.



"AND KARNA SAID:

I AM SURE
THE PANDAVAS
WILL NOT COME
BACK WITHOUT
COMPLETING THE
FULL TERM OF
EXILE.



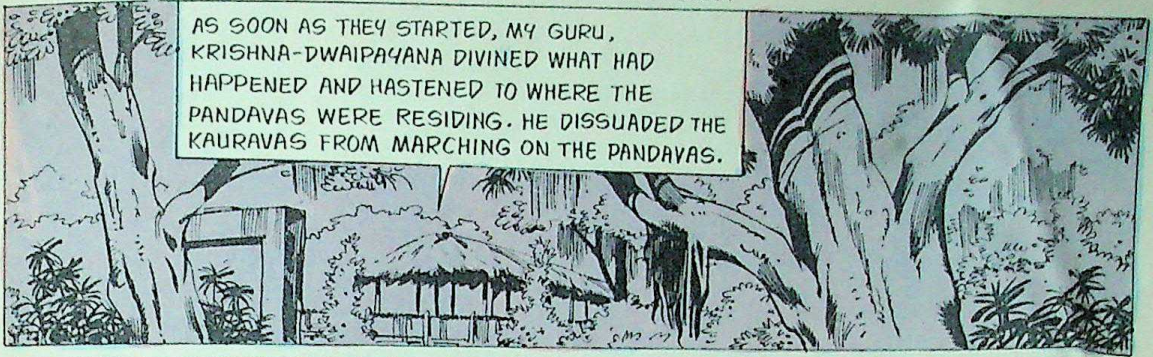
EVEN IF THEY
COME BACK DRIVEN
BY GREED, WE CAN
AGAIN DEFEAT
THEM IN A
DECEITFUL GAME
OF DICE.

"HEARING THESE WORDS OF KARNA, DURYODHANA,
NOT TOO HAPPY, TURNED AWAY HIS FACE. READING
HIS MIND, KARNA, WITH AN ANGRY LOOK, SAID:

O KING! LISTEN TO WHAT
I THINK ON THIS MATTER.
WE WILL BE LIKE
SERVANTS DANCING
ATTENDANCE ON THE
KING.

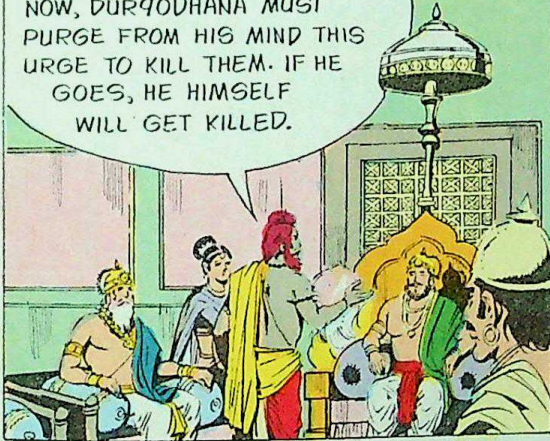
LET US TAKE OUR
WEAPONS, RIDE OUR CHARIOTS
AND PROCEED TO THE FOREST
TO KILL THE PANDAVAS.
ONCE THEY ARE DEAD,
THERE WILL BE NO RIFT
BETWEEN THE TWO
FAMILIES.

"HEARING THESE WORDS, ALL WERE VERY HAPPY AND FULL OF PRAISE FOR
KARNA. THEY SET OUT TOGETHER ON THEIR CHARIOTS, INTENT ON SLAYING
THE PANDAVAS.



"AFTER THAT HE WENT TO DHRITARASHTRA AND SAID:

I AM MUCH DISPLEASED WITH THE EXILE OF THE PANDAVAS AND THE INSULT HANDED OUT TO THEM. NOW, DUR4ODHANA MUST PURGE FROM HIS MIND THIS URGE TO KILL THEM. IF HE GOES, HE HIMSELF WILL GET KILLED.



"DHRITARASHTRA SAID:

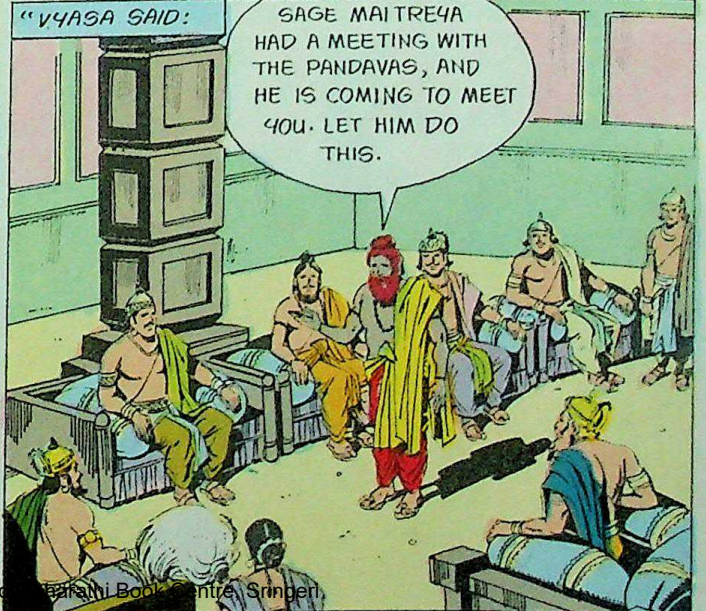
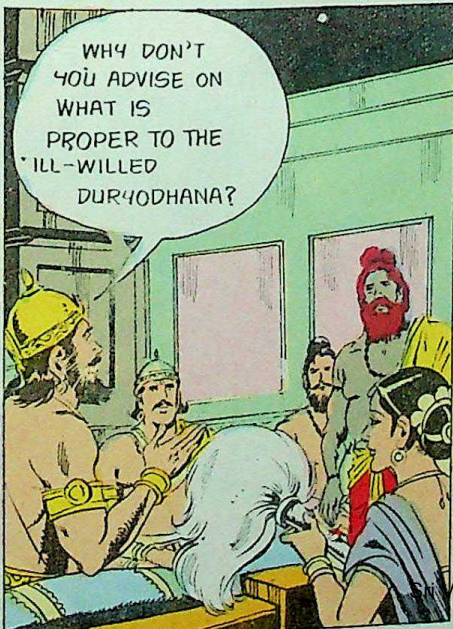
DUE TO MY AFFECTION FOR MY SON, I AM UNABLE TO SEE WHAT IS GOOD FOR THE KAURAVAS.



"VYASA SAID:

SAGE MAITREYA HAD A MEETING WITH THE PANDAVAS, AND HE IS COMING TO MEET YOU. LET HIM DO THIS.

WHY DON'T YOU ADVISE ON WHAT IS PROPER TO THE ILL-WILLED DUR4ODHANA?



SAYING THIS, O KING, VYASA TOOK HIS LEAVE. SOON AFTER THIS MAITREYA CAME AND TOLD DHRITARASHTRA THAT HE LEARNED FROM THE PANDAVAS ABOUT WHAT HAD HAPPENED BETWEEN THEM AND THE KAURAVAS AND THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF THE KURU RACE.

"HE THEN TURNED TO DURYODHANA AND SAID:

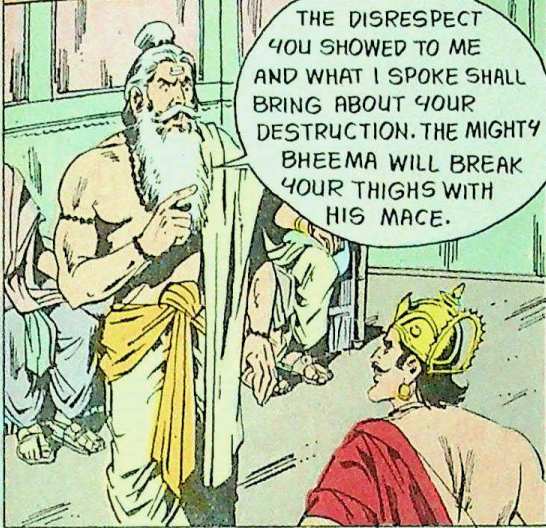
THE PANDAVAS ARE MIGHTY, MATCHLESS WARRIORS, AND RIGHTEOUS AND STEADFAST OF PURPOSE. BHEEMA ALONE HAS KILLED EVIL RAKSHASAS LIKE HIDIMBA, BAKA AND KIRMIRA.

WHO IS A MATCH FOR BHEEMA? MOREOVER, THEY HAVE KRISHNA AS THEIR KIN AND THE SONS OF DRUPADA AS THEIR BROTHERS-IN-LAW.

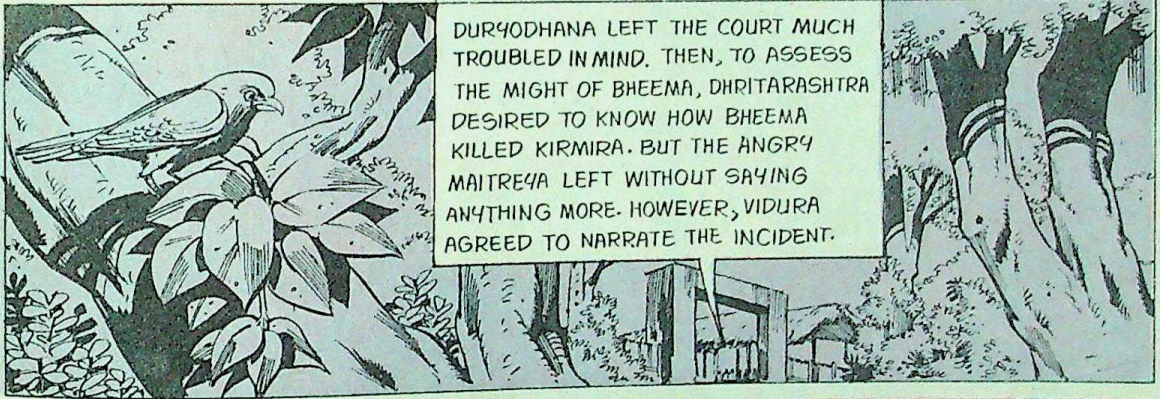
SO DON'T BE LED ASTRAY BY ANGER. BEFRIEND THE PANDAVAS.

"DURYODHANA DID NOT SAY ANYTHING BUT SLAPPED HIS THIGH IN DEFIANCE.

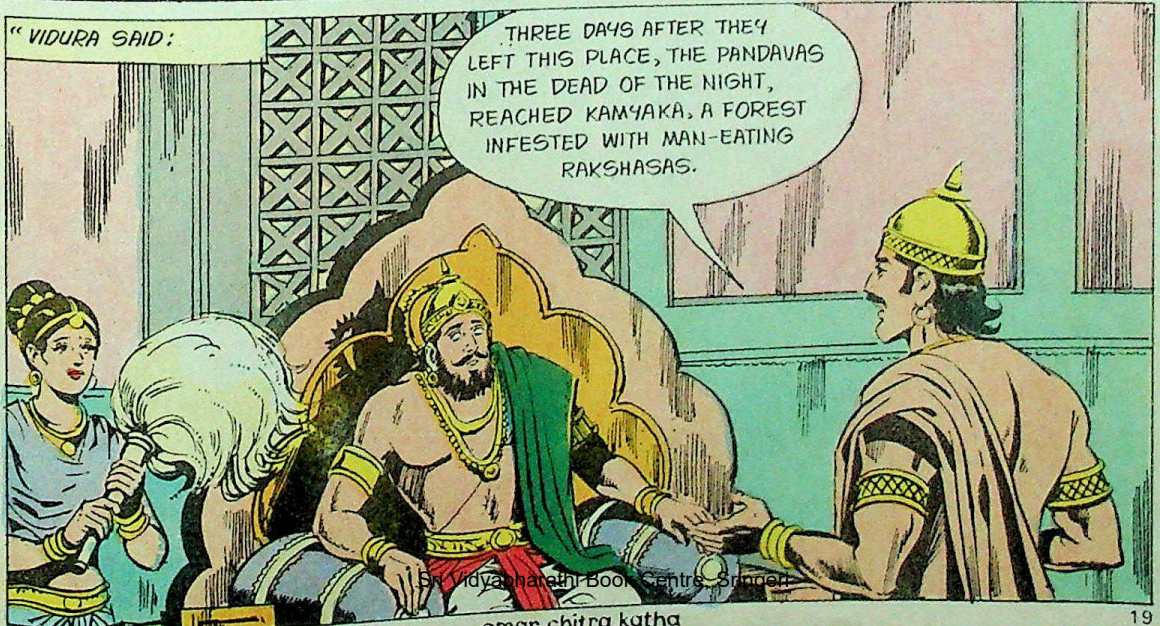
"ANGERED, THE SAGE SAID:



"ALARMED, DHRITARASHTRA TRIED TO APPEASE THE SAGE AND PLEADED FOR FORGIVENESS. THEN MAITREYA SAID:

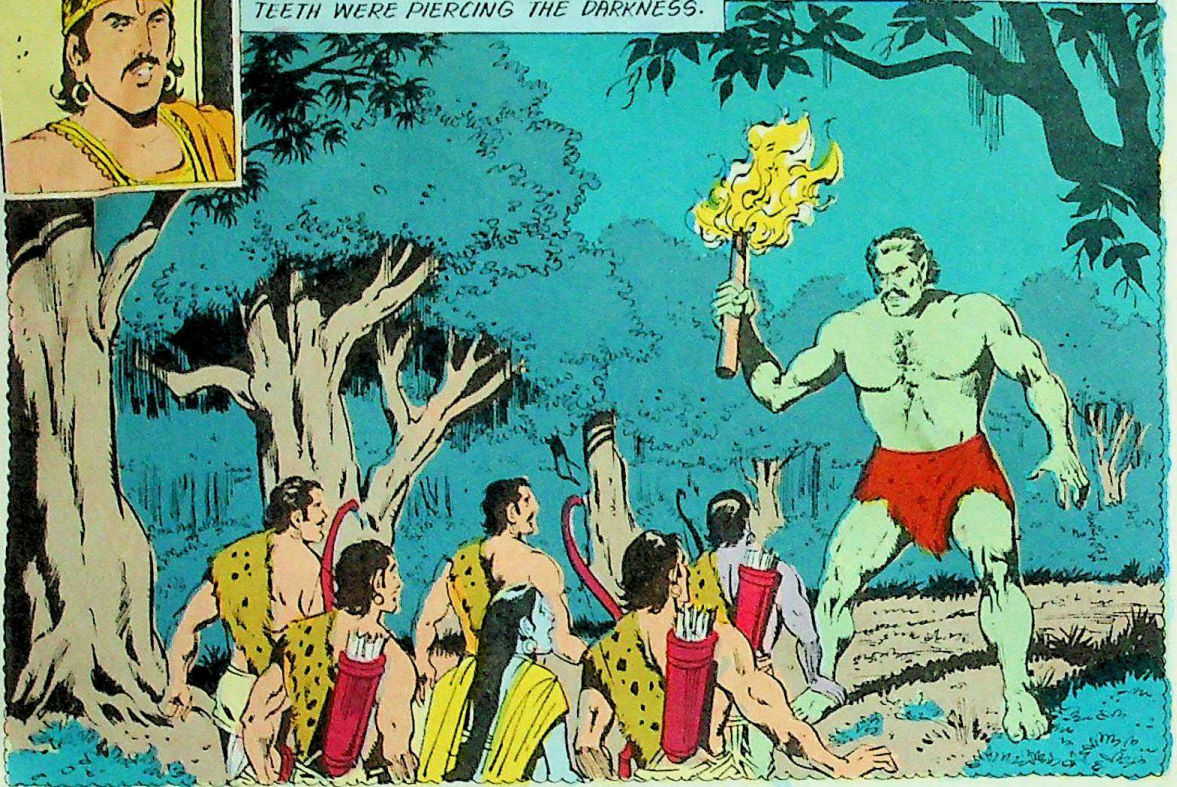


"VIDURA SAID:





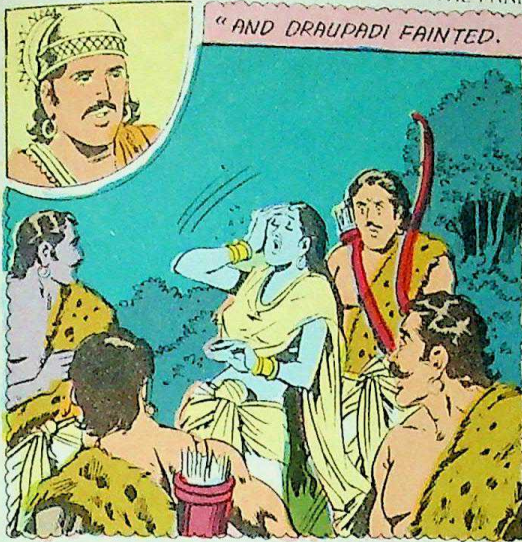
"AS SOON AS THEY ENTERED THE FOREST, THEY SAW A THREATENING RAKSHASA WITH A TORCH IN HIS HAND. HIS RED EYES WERE BURNING LIKE FIRE, HIS LONG HAIR WAS STANDING UPRIGHT AND HIS LONG WHITE TEETH WERE PIERCING THE DARKNESS.



"SEEING THE PANDAVAS HE STRETCHED HIS LONG ARM AND LET OUT A THUNDEROUS ROAR. WITH THIS ROAR ALL THE BIRDS AND BEASTS FLED IN FEAR.



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"AND DRAUPADI FAINTED."



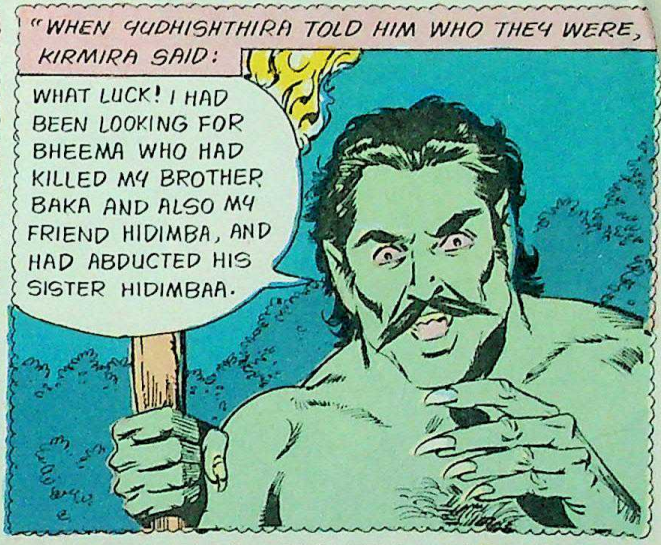
"THEN YUDHISHTHIRA ASKED HIM :

WHO ARE YOU ? WHAT
DO YOU WANT
OF US ?



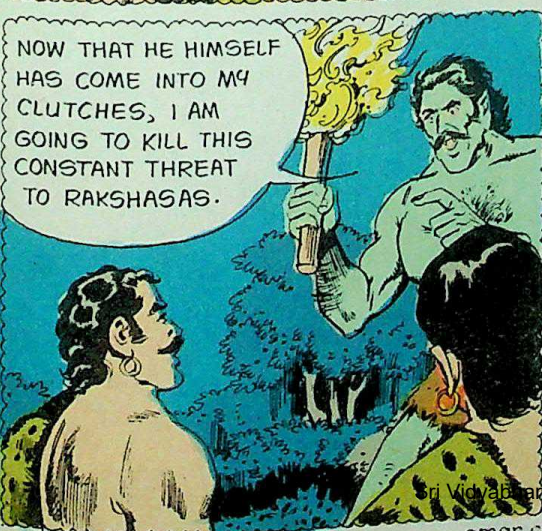
"THE RAKSHASA REPLIED :

I AM KIRMIRA,
THE BROTHER
OF BAKA. BUT
WHO ARE YOU
HERE READY TO
BE DEVoured
BY ME ?

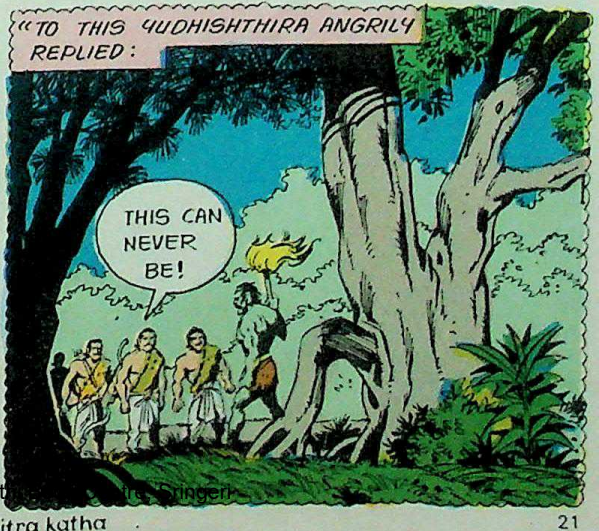


"WHEN YUDHISHTHIRA TOLD HIM WHO THEY WERE,
KIRMIRA SAID :

WHAT LUCK ! I HAD
BEEN LOOKING FOR
BHEEMA WHO HAD
KILLED MY BROTHER
BAKA AND ALSO MY
FRIEND HIDIMBA, AND
HAD ABDUCTED HIS
SISTER HIDIMBAA.



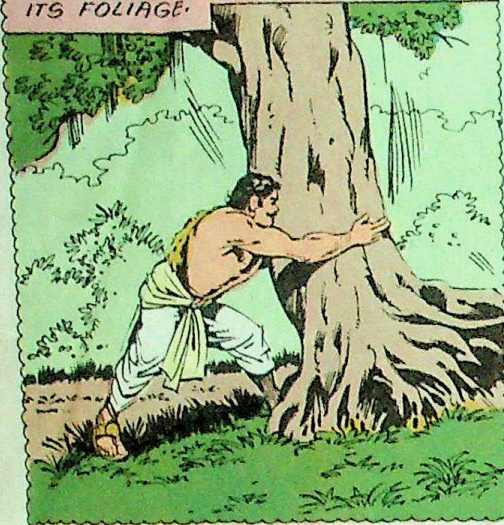
NOW THAT HE HIMSELF
HAS COME INTO MY
CLUTCHES, I AM
GOING TO KILL THIS
CONSTANT THREAT
TO RAKSHASAS.



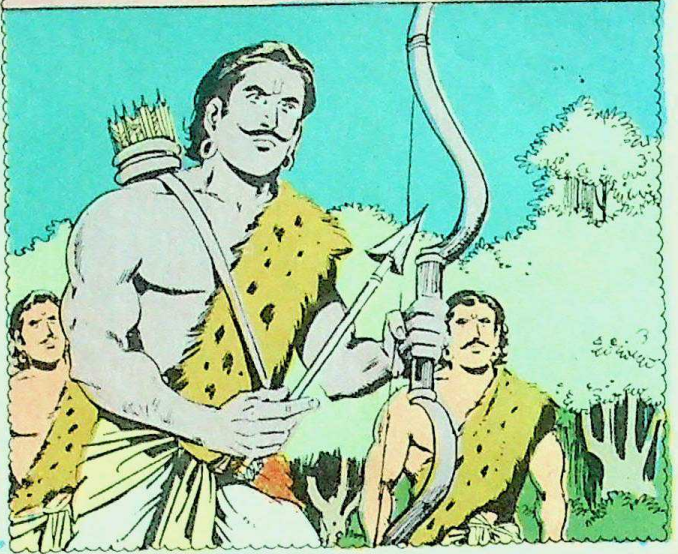
"TO THIS YUDHISHTHIRA ANGRILY
REPLIED :

THIS CAN
NEVER
BE !

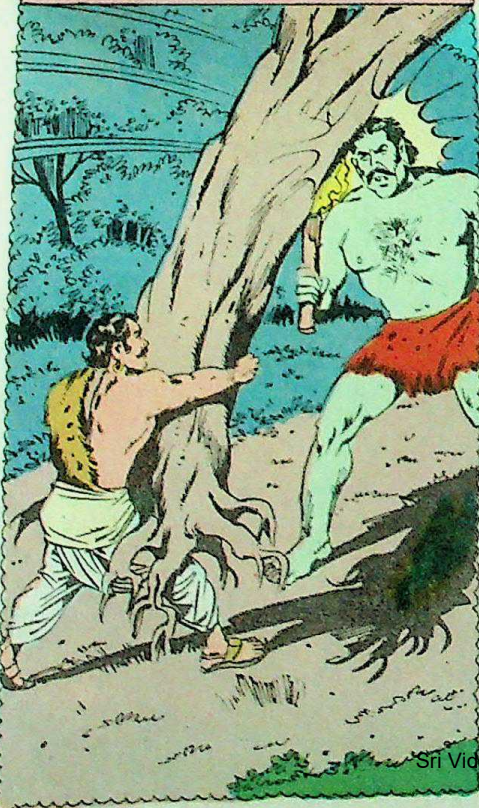
"THEN THE MIGHTY BHEEMA UPROOTED
A HUGE TREE AND REMOVED ALL
ITS FOLIAGE."



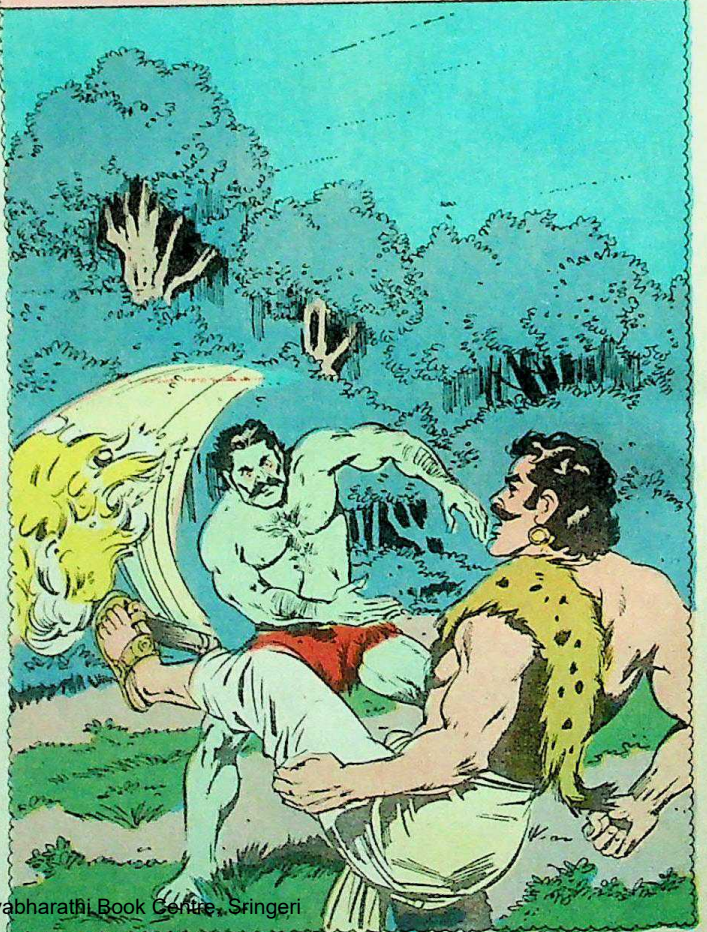
"ARJUNA ALSO READIED HIS GANDEEVA BOW."



"BHEEMA STOPPED
ARJUNA, AND THEN
GOING FORWARD HIT
THE RAKSHASA ON HIS
HEAD WITH THE MIGHT OF
INDRA WIELDING HIS
THUNDERBOLT."



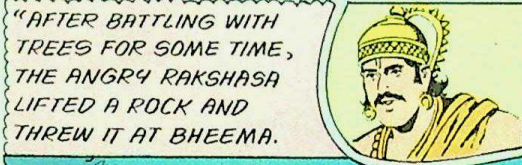
"UNMOVED, THE RAKSHASA HURLED THE TORCH AT
BHEEMA WHO EASILY STOPPED IT WITH HIS LEFT FOOT."



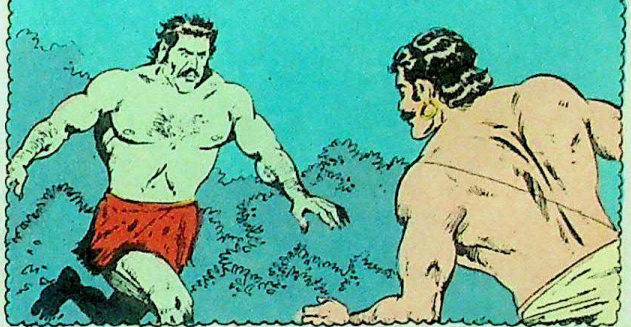
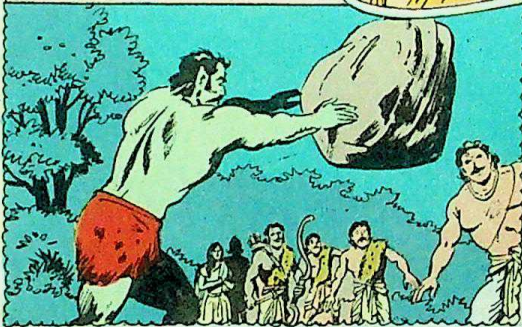
"KIRMIRA TOO UPROOTED A TREE. THE TWO FOUGHT EACH OTHER WITH TREES AS WEAPONS. AND THE TREES BROKE AS REEDS IN THE COURSE OF THE FIGHT.



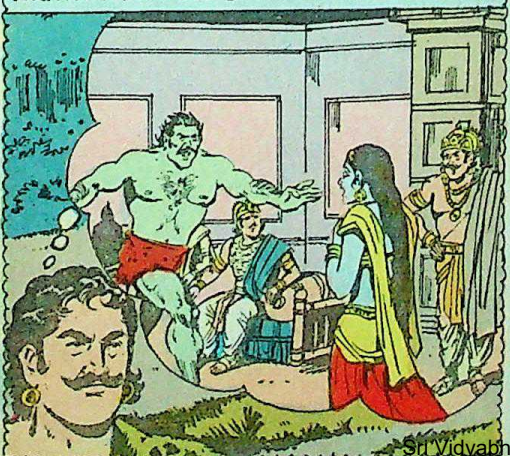
"AFTER BATTLING WITH TREES FOR SOME TIME, THE ANGRY RAKSHASHA LIFTED A ROCK AND THREW IT AT BHEEMA.



"AND SEEING HIM UNDAUNTED, RUSHED AT HIM AND CAUGHT HIM BY HIS ARMS.



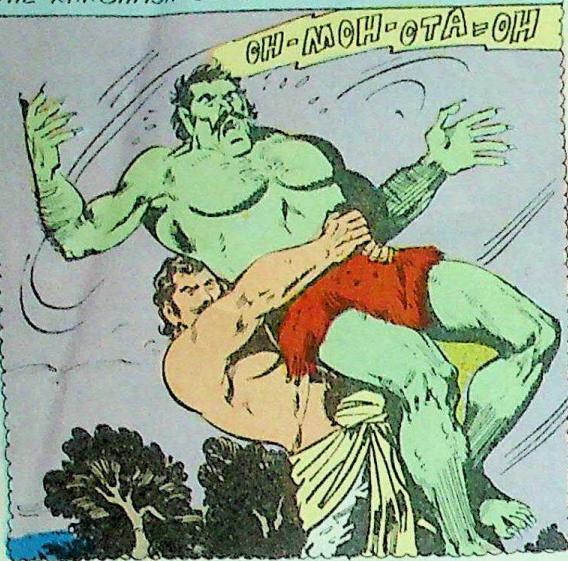
"BHEEMA WAS STILL BURNING WITH ANGER BECAUSE OF THE INSULTS HEADED ON DRAUPADI BY DUR'YODHANA. HIS WHOLE WRATH NOW FELL ON KIRMIRA.



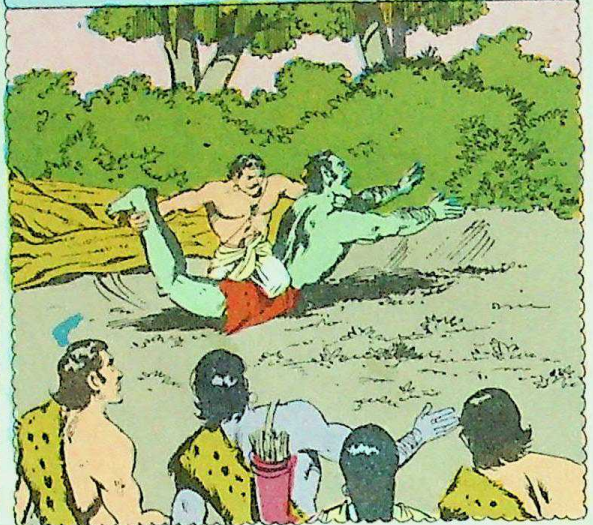
"HE CAUGHT KIRMIRA BY HIS WAIST AND SHOOK HIM AND THE RAKSHASHA TREMBLED LIKE A TREE IN A STORM.



"AS HE TRIED TO CRUSH KIRMIRA IN HIS ARMS,
THE RAKSHASA SCREAMED IN PAIN.



"SEEING THAT THE RAKSHASA HAD ALMOST
FAINTED, HE PLACED HIS KNEE ON THE WAIST
OF KIRMIRA AND STRANGLED HIM.

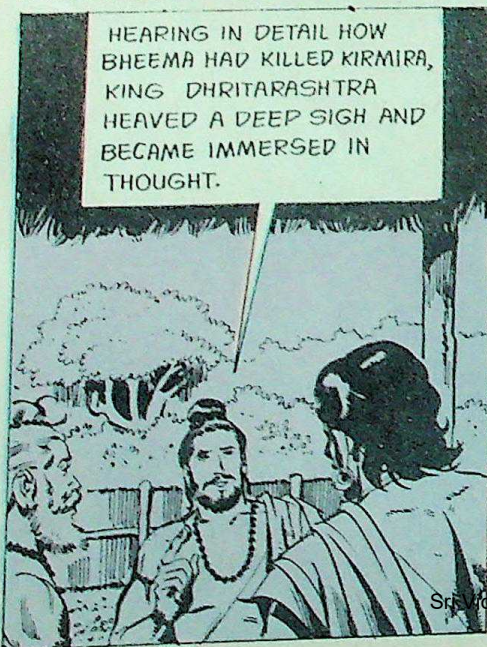


"VIDURA ENDED HIS STORY:

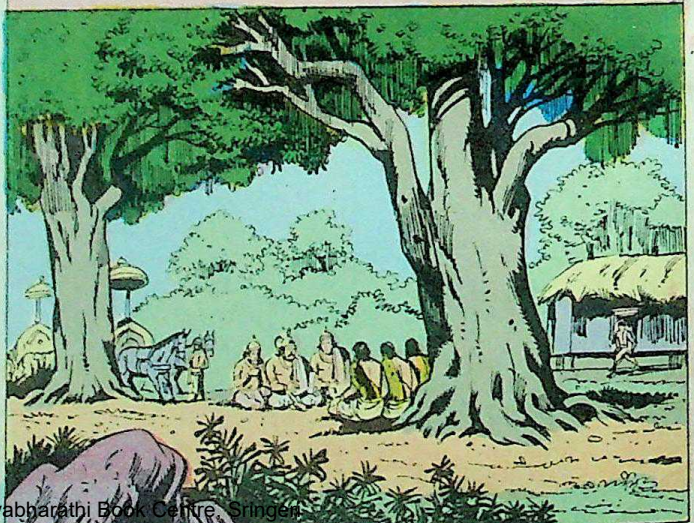
O MONARCH! ON MY
WAY, I SAW LYING THERE
THE BODY OF KIRMIRA
SLAIN BY BHEEMA. AND
I HEARD OF THIS SUPER-
HUMAN DEED OF BHEEMA
FROM THE BRAHMANAS
WHO WERE PRESENT
THERE.



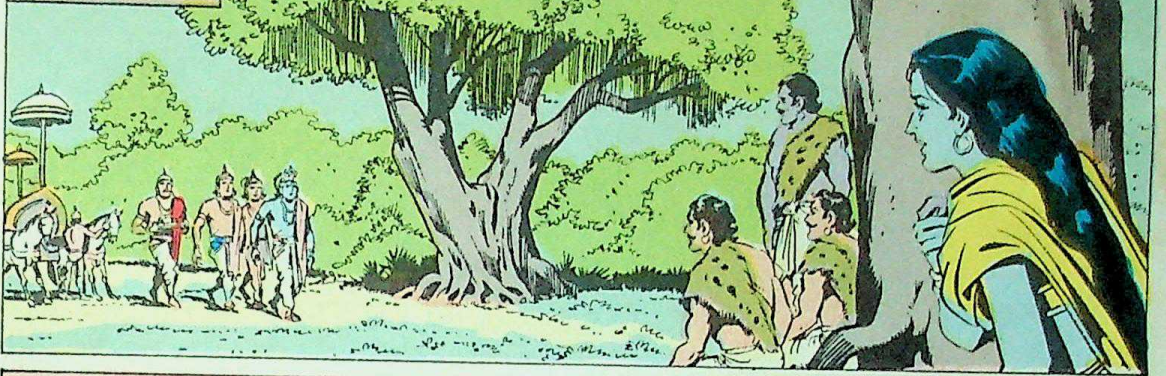
HEARING IN DETAIL HOW
BHEEMA HAD KILLED KIRMIRA,
KING DHRITARASHTRA
HEAVED A DEEP SIGH AND
BECAME IMMERSSED IN
THOUGHT.



"ON LEARNING THAT THE PANDAVAS HAD GONE INTO
EXILE, THE BHOJAS, THE ANDHAKAS AND THE VRISHNIS
CAME TO THE FOREST TO MEET THEM.

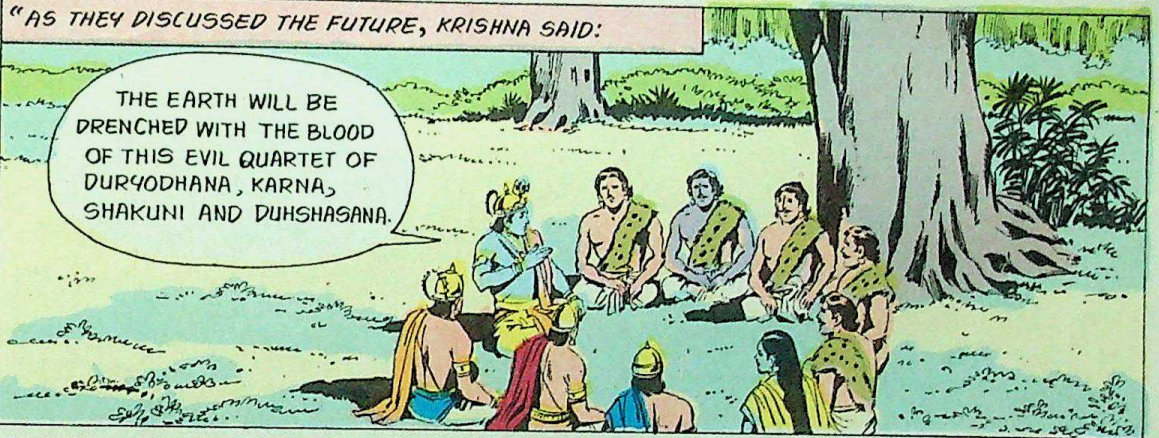


"THE PANCHALA PRINCE, DHRISTADYUMNA AND THE KING OF CHEDI, DHRISTAKETU AND THE VALOROUS PRINCE OF KEKAYA ALSO CAME THERE CURSING THE SONS OF DHRTIRASHTRA. WITH KRISHNA AT THEIR HEAD, ALL THOSE KSHATRIYA CHIEFS SAT, SURROUNDING THE RIGHTEOUS YUDHISHTHIRA.



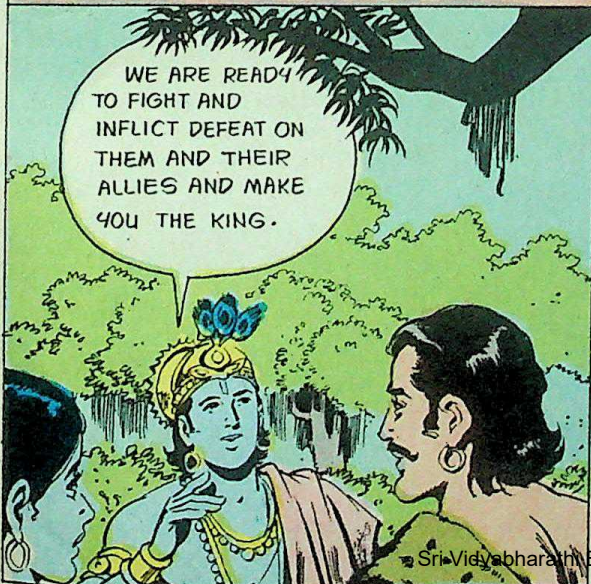
"AS THEY DISCUSSED THE FUTURE, KRISHNA SAID:

THE EARTH WILL BE
DRENCHED WITH THE BLOOD
OF THIS EVIL QUARTET OF
DURYODHANA, KARNA,
SHAKUNI AND DUHSHASANA.

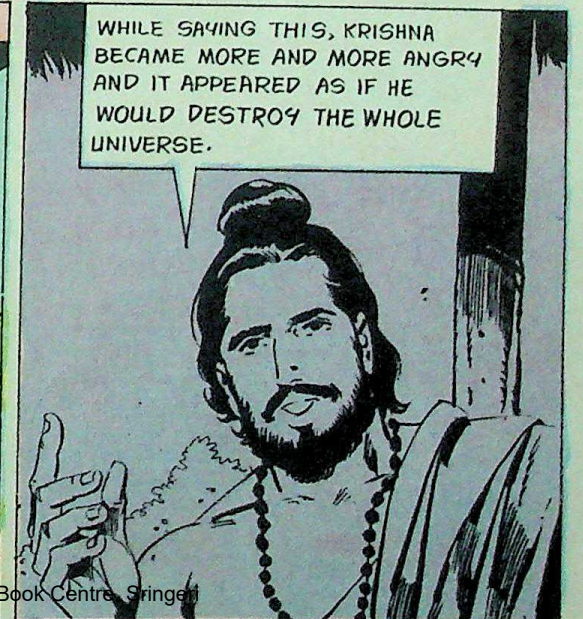


"THEN HE TURNED TO YUDHISHTHIRA AND SAID:

WE ARE READY
TO FIGHT AND
INFLECT DEFEAT ON
THEM AND THEIR
ALLIES AND MAKE
YOU THE KING.



WHILE SAYING THIS, KRISHNA
BECAME MORE AND MORE ANGRY
AND IT APPEARED AS IF HE
WOULD DESTROY THE WHOLE
UNIVERSE.



"THEN ARJUNA RECOUNTED EPISODES FROM KRISHNA'S PREVIOUS INCARNATIONS AND SAID:

YOU ARE THE
ALMIGHTY. YOU ARE
THE TRUTH, THE LORD
OF LORDS AND THE KING
OF THE UNIVERSE.

"TO THIS DRAUPADI ADDED—

IMMANENT
LORD! IN YOU
EVERYTHING IS
ESTABLISHED.

THEN, O KRISHNA HOW
COULD ONE LIKE ME, THE
WIFE OF THE PANDAVA HEROES,
THE SISTER OF DHRSHTADYUMNA
AND, ABOVE ALL, A FRIEND OF
YOURS, HAVE BEEN DRAGGED
INTO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE
KAURAVAS TO BE
DISHONOURD?

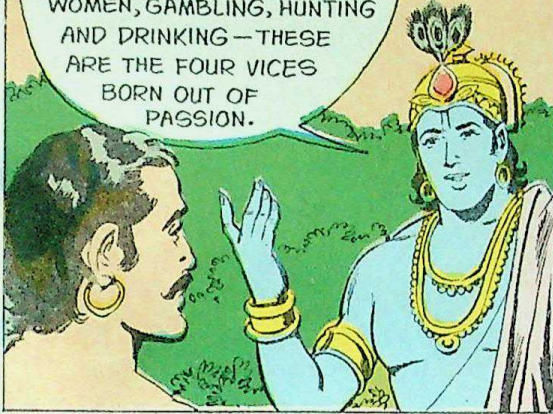
FOR FOUR
REASONS, KRISHNA,
I MUST ALWAYS BE
PROTECTED BY YOU:
FOR KINSHIP, FOR
HONOUR, FOR
FRIENDSHIP AND,
ABOVE ALL, YOU
ARE THE
ALL-POWERFUL LORD,
KRISHNA.

"KRISHNA SAID:

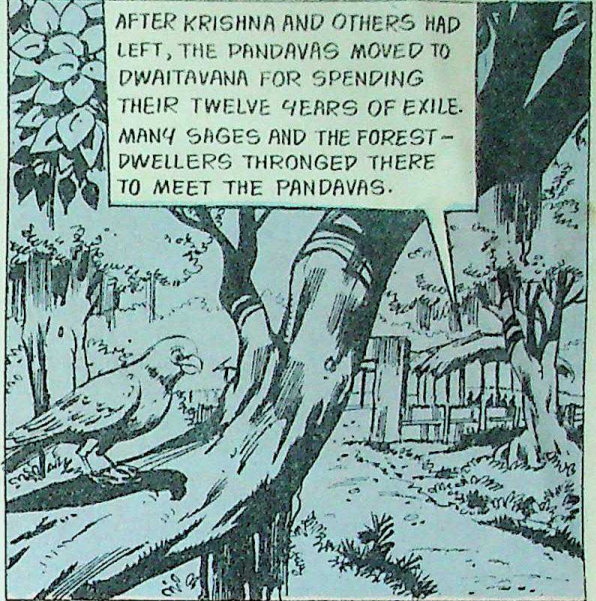
DO NOT
GRIEVE. I PROMISE
YOU THIS; YOU WILL
BECOME THE QUEEN
OF KINGS.

"TURNING TO YUDHISHTHIRA, KRISHNA SAID:

IF I HAD BEEN PRESENT
IN DWARAKA THEN, I
WOULD HAVE STOPPED THE
GAME OF DICE BEING PLAYED.
WOMEN, GAMBLING, HUNTING
AND DRINKING—THESE
ARE THE FOUR VICES
BORN OUT OF
PASSION.

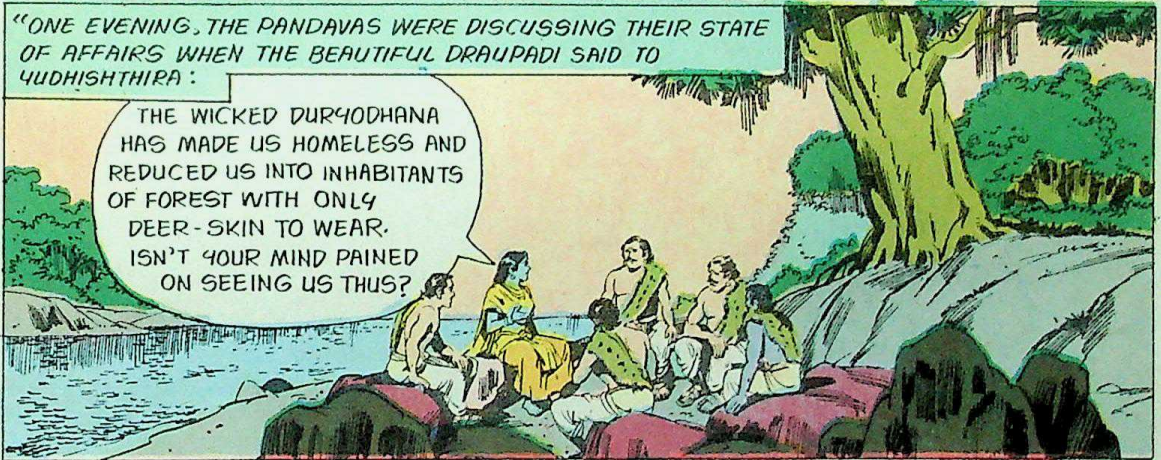


AFTER KRISHNA AND OTHERS HAD
LEFT, THE PANDAVAS MOVED TO
DWAITAVANA FOR SPENDING
THEIR TWELVE YEARS OF EXILE.
MANY SAGES AND THE FOREST-
DWELLERS THROGGED THERE
TO MEET THE PANDAVAS.

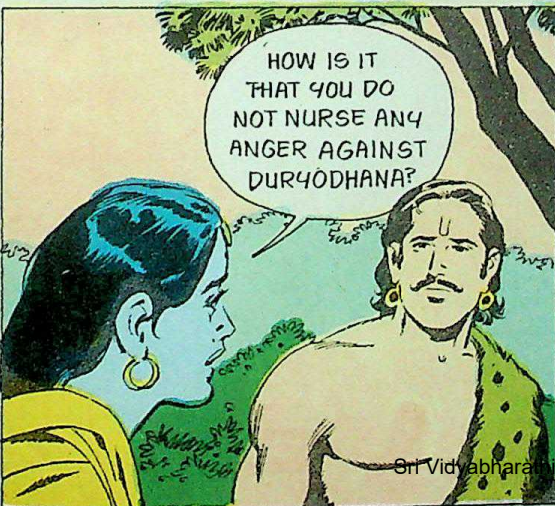


"ONE EVENING, THE PANDAVAS WERE DISCUSSING THEIR STATE
OF AFFAIRS WHEN THE BEAUTIFUL DRAUPADI SAID TO
YUDHISHTHIRA:

THE WICKED DURYODHANA
HAS MADE US HOMELESS AND
REDUCED US INTO INHABITANTS
OF FOREST WITH ONLY
DEER-SKIN TO WEAR.
ISN'T YOUR MIND PAINED
ON SEEING US THUS?

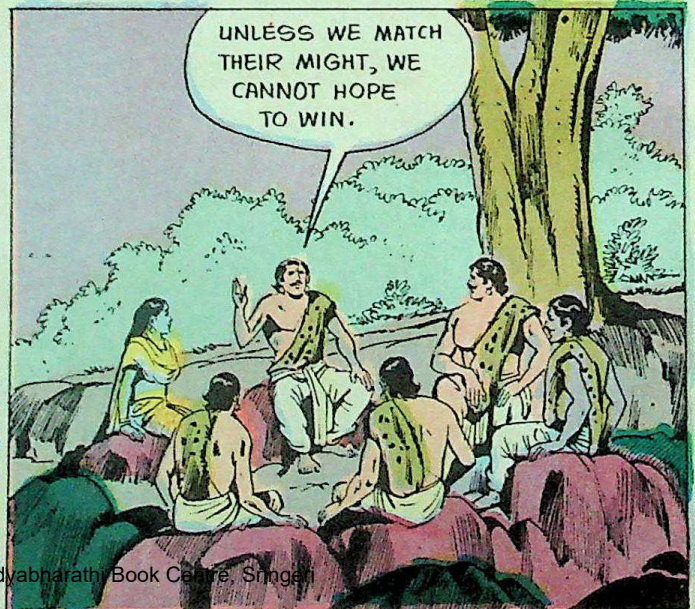
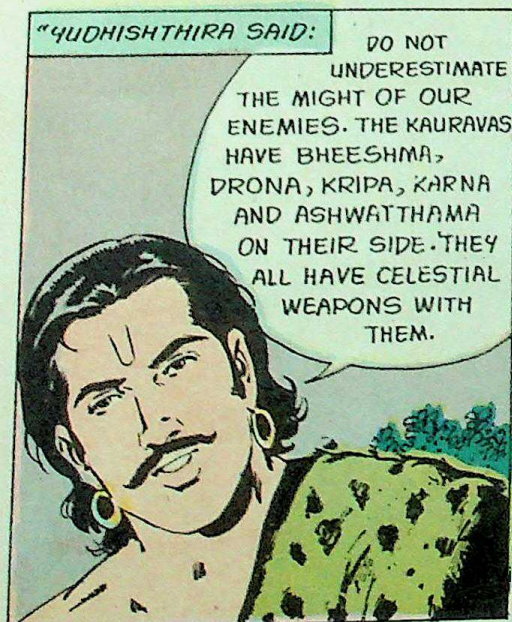
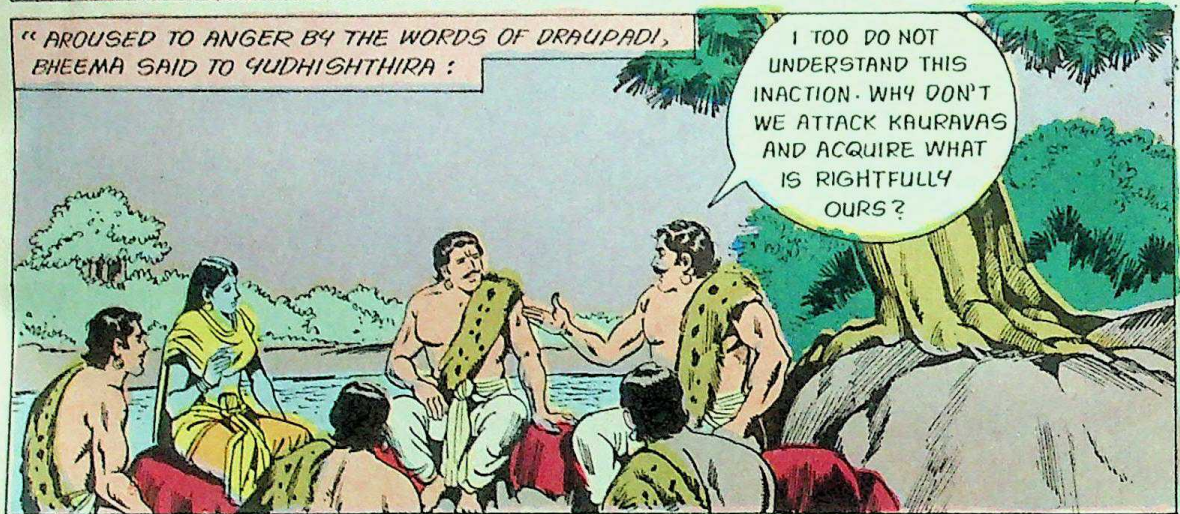


HOW IS IT
THAT YOU DO
NOT NURSE ANY
ANGER AGAINST
DURYODHANA?



IT IS CONTRARY TO
THE NATURE
OF A
KSHATRIYA.

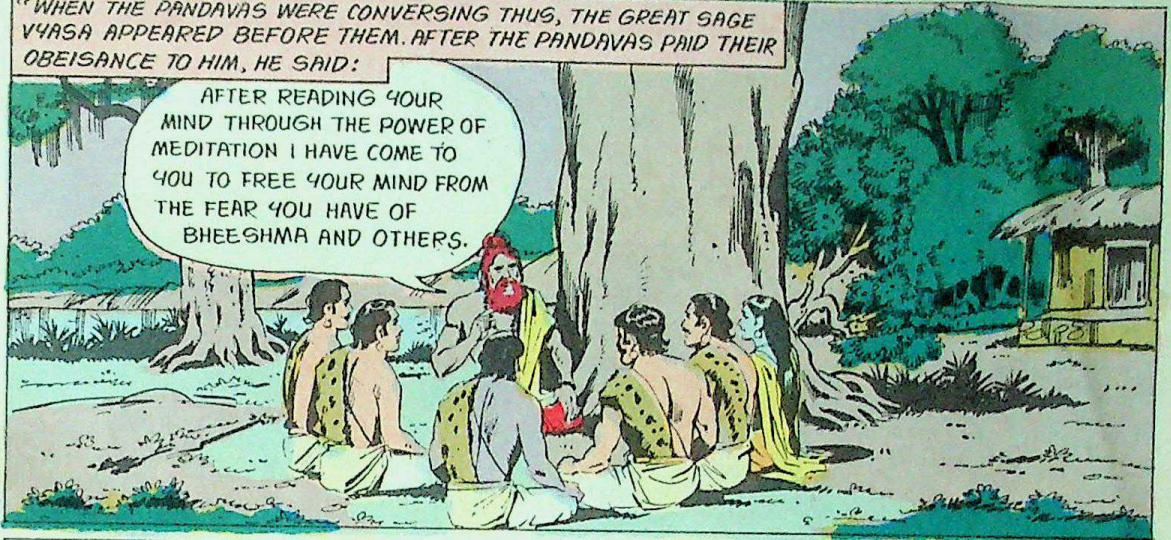




THE PANDAVAS IN THE FOREST

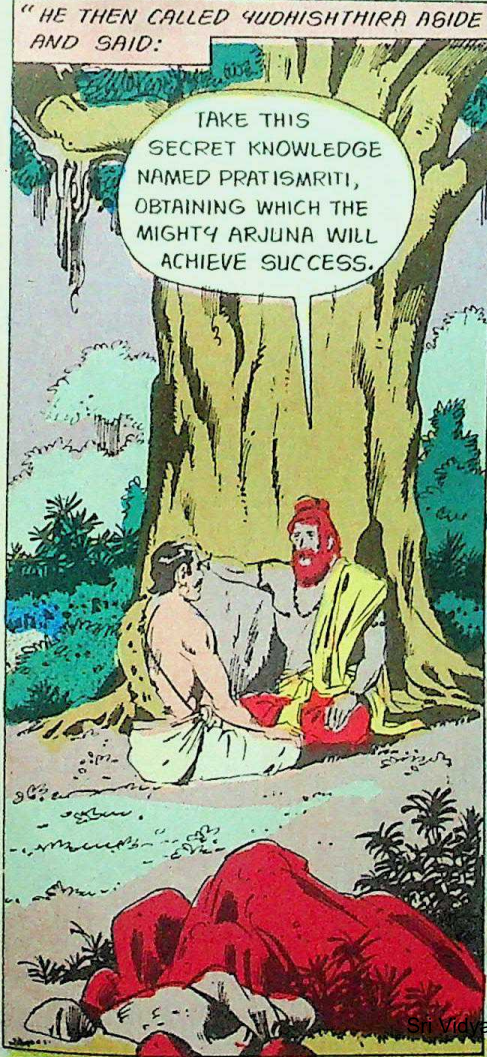
"WHEN THE PANDAVAS WERE CONVERSING THUS, THE GREAT SAGE VYASA APPEARED BEFORE THEM. AFTER THE PANDAVAS PAID THEIR OBEISANCE TO HIM, HE SAID:

AFTER READING YOUR MIND THROUGH THE POWER OF MEDITATION I HAVE COME TO YOU TO FREE YOUR MIND FROM THE FEAR YOU HAVE OF BHEESHMA AND OTHERS.

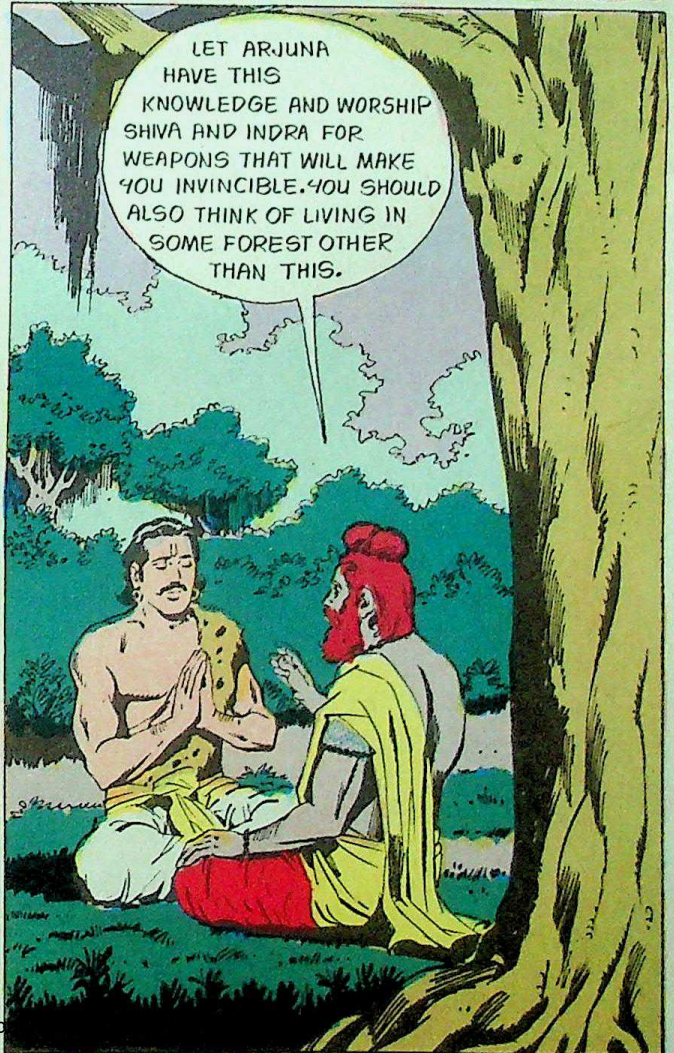


"HE THEN CALLED YUDHISHTHIRA ASIDE AND SAID:

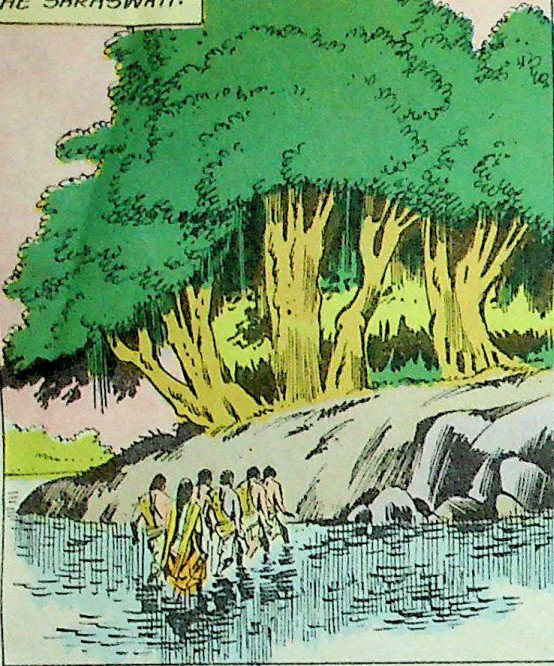
TAKE THIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE NAMED PRATISMRTI, OBTAINING WHICH THE MIGHTY ARJUNA WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS.



LET ARJUNA HAVE THIS KNOWLEDGE AND WORSHIP SHIVA AND INDRA FOR WEAPONS THAT WILL MAKE YOU INVINCIBLE. YOU SHOULD ALSO THINK OF LIVING IN SOME FOREST OTHER THAN THIS.

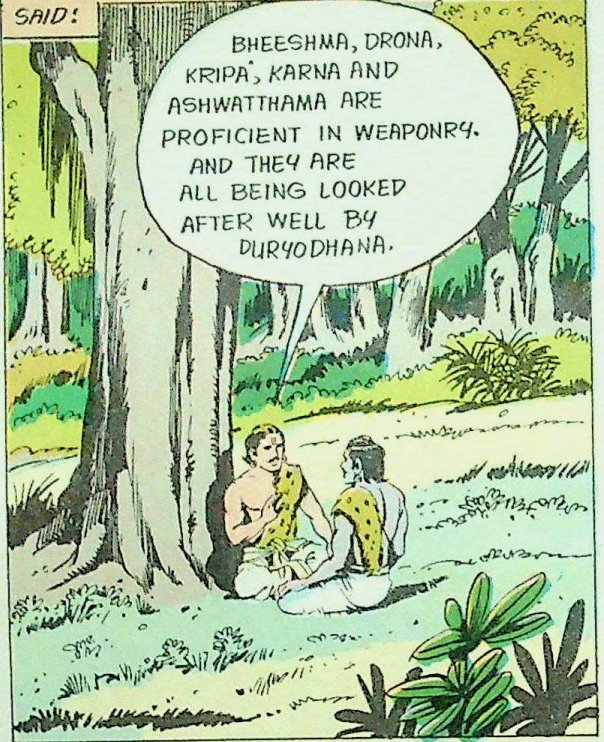


"AFTER IMPARTING THUS THE YOGA VIDYA, VYASA DISAPPEARED. THE RIGHTEOUS YUDHISHTHIRA WENT FROM THE DVAITA TO THE FOREST KNOWN AS KAMYAKA ON THE BANKS OF THE SARASWATI.

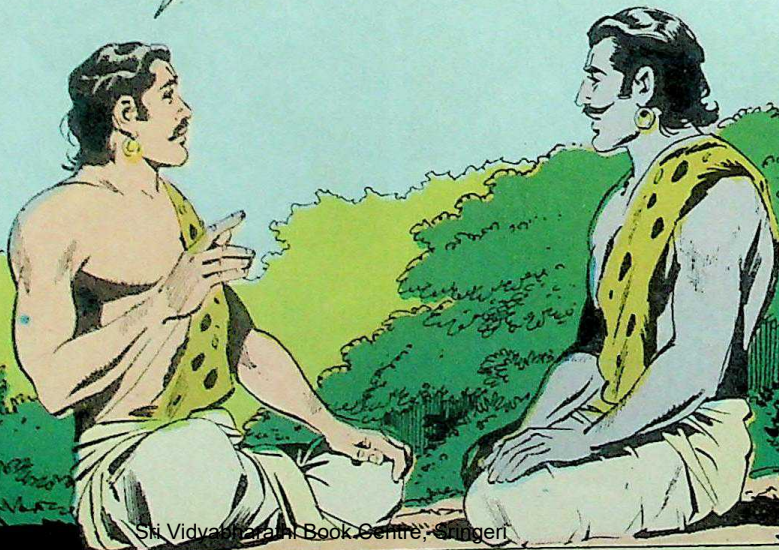


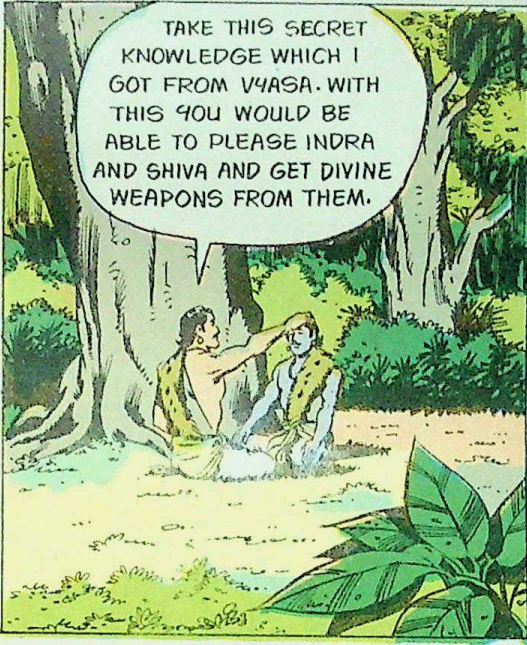
"THEN, REMEMBERING THE SAGE'S ADVICE, YUDHISHTHIRA CALLED ARJUNA TO HIS SIDE AND SAID:

BHEESHMA, DRONA, KRIPA, KARNA AND ASHWATTHAMA ARE PROFICIENT IN WEAPONRY. AND THEY ARE ALL BEING LOOKED AFTER WELL BY DURYODHANA.

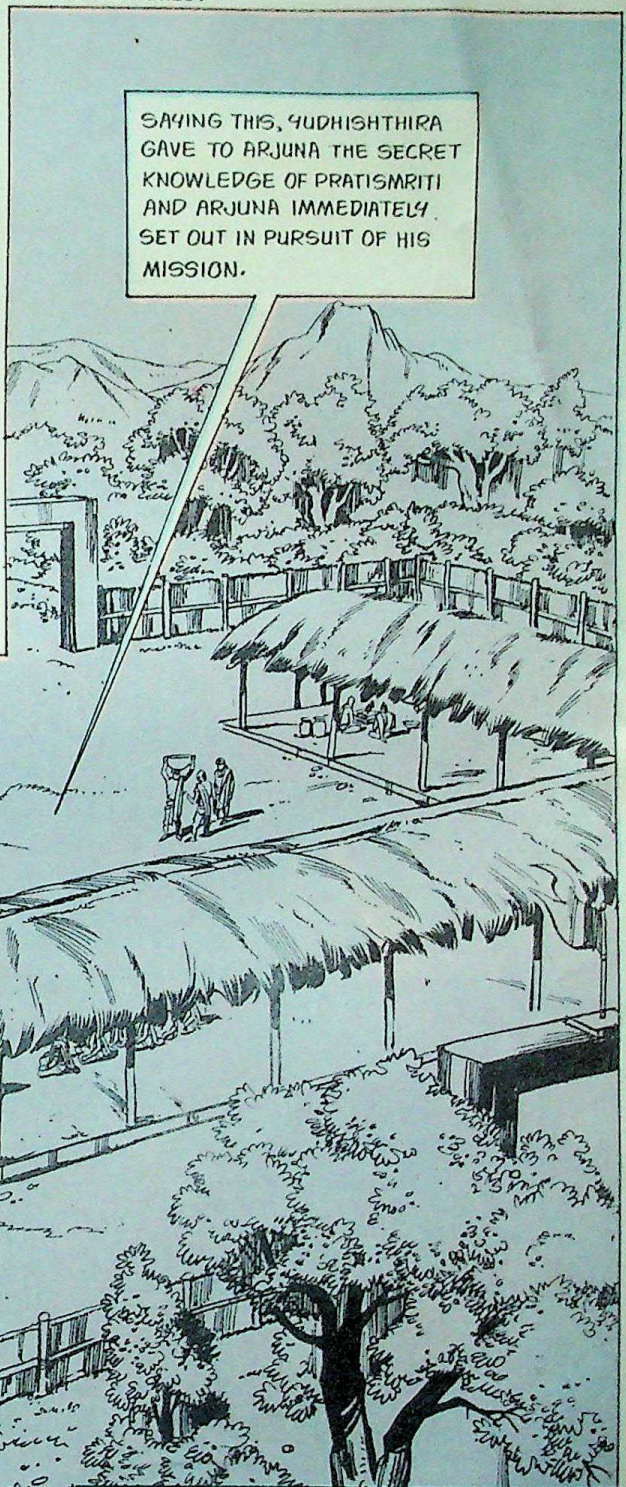


SO, WHEN THE NEED ARISES THEY WON'T HESITATE TO SHOW THEIR MIGHT AGAINST US.





TAKE THIS SECRET KNOWLEDGE WHICH I GOT FROM VYASA. WITH THIS YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO PLEASE INDRA AND SHIVA AND GET DIVINE WEAPONS FROM THEM.

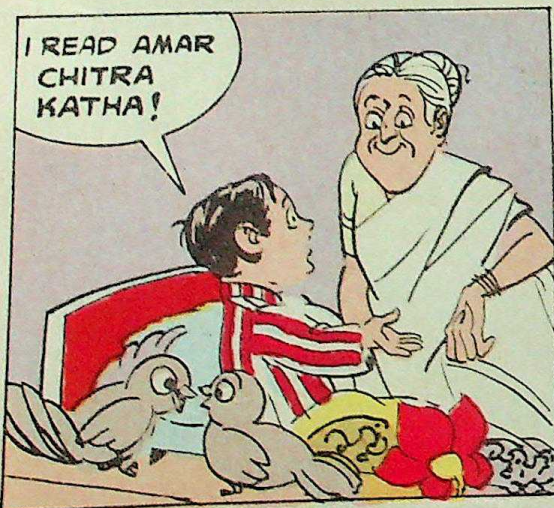
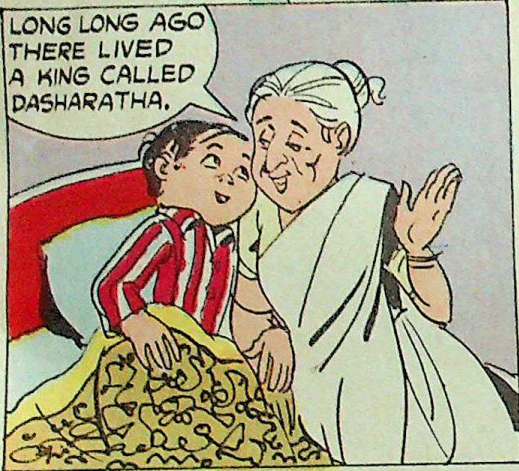


SAYING THIS, YUDHISHTHIRA GAVE TO ARJUNA THE SECRET KNOWLEDGE OF PRATISMRTI AND ARJUNA IMMEDIATELY SET OUT IN PURSUIT OF HIS MISSION.

AND THUS ENDS THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S IMMORTAL ITIHASA — THE MAHABHARATA.

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